2 Killed, 2 Hurt by White Farmer

the Afro American Baltimore, Md.

RISON, Ark. (ANP)—Two boys were killed and two men seriously wounded recently when Paul Clements, white farmer residing north of Kingsland, drew his gun and began firing, after some alleged trouble with others on the street.

Junior Johnson, 12, was killed outright, while Leroy Wynn, 16, died in a hospital the next day. A shoulder wound was suffered by 60-year-old Grant Hester, and Jeff Thomas, 40, was hit in the left hand and on the chin.

Clements was lodged in jail. The county is heavily populated with colored farm families, and white merchants get the bulk of their income from their patronage.

Sat. 11-16-46

Set Dec. 2 Trial For Farmer Who Murdered Children

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 11-30-46

RISON, Ark.— (ANP) —Trial of a white farmer charged with first degree murder in the brutal slaying of two Negro children was set for Dec. 2 at preliminary hearing in Circuit court here last week.

Paul Clements, the farmer, was released on a habeas corpus writ after Judge John Golden had set his bond at $7,500.

Clements shot and killed Junior Johnson, 12, and fatally wounded Leroy Wynn, 16, when he became angry and shot into a crowd on Main st., early last month. He had a previous argument with two other Negroes who had already been jailed for assault when Clements went home, got a gun and shot into the crowd. Two other persons were injured but recovered.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Whites (Calif.)

Body of Slain Waitress Found

Journal Guide
Norfolk, Va.

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SAN FRANCISCO — Discovery last week of the body of a young woman in San Mateo County, identified as Miss Dorothy R. Jones, 23, a local waitress, drew attention to Thomas H. McMonigle, white, a former bus driver, now awaiting execution in San Quentin's lethal gas chamber.

McMonigle, San Mateo ex-convict, sentenced to die for the murder of Thora Chamberlain, a white 14-year-old high school girl, will be prosecuted for the murder of Miss Jones, should the State Supreme Court reverse his conviction, according to District Attorney Edmund G. Brown.

Admits Murder

County authorities said the colored girl's body was found lodged in a crevice half way down Devil's Slide on the county coast, by Franklin Hogmire, a white junk dealer, who came upon it while climbing the cliff. Sat 5-4-46

It was identified by two fellow residents of a rooming house where the slain waitress lived. McMonigle, who admitted killing Miss Jones last March, was taken out of death row to the guard captain's office where authorities questioned him.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Whites (Calif.)

Bobby-Soxer's Slayer Admits Another Crime

Tampa Tribune
Richmond, Va.

SANTA CRUZ, CALIF., Feb. 21 —(UP)—Thomas Henry McMonigle, 21-year-old ex-convict convicted of murdering bobby-soxer Thora Chamberlain, today confessed he had strangled a San Francisco Negress and thrown her body over seaside cliffs into the Pacific Ocean near where he said he threw Miss Chamberlain's body. Sat 2-23-46

McMonigle's confession was made to Sheriff J. R. Devitt and two San Francisco police inspectors only two days after he had been found guilty of the kidnap-murder of 14-year-old Thora.

He identified a photograph of Dorothy Rose Jones from a collection of 13 pictures of Negresses. He said he "picked her up" while he was operating a bus in San Francisco.

Vanie D. Brooks, Negro, who accompanied police to Santa Cruz, identified McMonigle as the man who he saw pick up Dorothy at Third and Market Streets, San Francisco. That was three weeks before Thora disappeared from in front of Campbell Union High School, near San Jose, Calif., November 2.

16b 1946

Fla. Laundry Employe Killed "Accidentally"

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ANP)—J. C. Peacock Jr., white, confessed to an assistant State's attorney that he "accidentally" fired a pistol killing Paul Smith, colored, in front of his home on Dec. 8. He said the pistol fell while he worked on his father's car, and was discharged as he picked it up.

Peacock and his father first reported to police that they found Smith's body in the street shortly after an automobile passed at an excessive rate of speed. Smith was delivering laundered clothes to a white resident of the St. Clair street section.

WHITE MAN KILLS NEGRO IN COLD BLOOD, ARRESTED

Negro Shot While Passing House

Edward Green, eastsider, is dead and one Henry G. Kitchens (white) will face a coroner's jury this week on suspicion of murder.

Kitchens who lives at 324 West Union Street, was on his way home and was followed several blocks by Green, according to Kitchens' story, but there were no witnesses.

It was said that Green was shot when he passed Kitchens' house, but Kitchens did not know as to whether the bullet found its mark. Then Kitchens called police headquarters and related his story. He was taken into custody on last Tuesday morning and charged on suspicion of murder.

Green is dead—Kitchens is still alive, and how the inquest comes out this week is still a mystery to all of us.

It was also stated that Green was on his way home at the time of the shooting and maybe not following Kitchens.

The Tattler will keep its thousands of readers informed concerning the outcome of this case.

16b 1946

Negroes, by hites (Georgia)

Veteran Shot By Motorman, Dies At Lawson-General

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Tues. 10-1-46

The Crime Report Bureau of the Atlanta Police Department listed two homicides over the weekend. Walter Lee Johnson, the 22 year old veteran of 420 Rock Street, N. W. who was shot by a Georgia Power Company street car motorman, Saturday night, died between 8:15 and 8:30 Sunday morning at Lawson General Hospital. The second homicide victim was stabbed on September 20, and died on September 24, but the police report was not made out until Monday. The total number of homicides for the year now stands at sixty-one.

61

Atlanta World reporters talked with Mr. Johnson, shortly after the shooting Saturday night, before he was transferred from Grady to Lawson General Hospital. During this brief interview, the young veteran stated emphatically that he had not been on the street car and that he was not attempting to get on the car. Witnesses corroborated this statement.

CONFLICTING VERSIONS

News accounts of the shooting varied sharply in the Atlanta dailies Sunday, Monday. The Atlanta Daily World contacted Miss Hariet Ponder, cousin of the victim who was with him at the time of the shooting and she gave substantially the same version that was given Saturday night.

According to Miss Ponder, she and her cousin were standing on the sidewalk, near the corner of Simpson and Gray Streets, around 9:30, Saturday night. The inbound street car on the River line, pulled up and stopped to let a passenger off at the rear. There were no passengers waiting to get on the car. Miss Ponder said that Mr. Johnson yelled to one of his friends, who was passing in an automobile, saying "Straighten up and fly right."

The motorman, who was listed by the police as W. D. Lee, 22, 883 Argonne Street, N. E. thought he was talking to him and got off the car and asked him to repeat those remarks, she continued. Miss Ponder further stated that the street car operator snapped his pistol at the young veteran, and that he in turn tried to take it from him.

OTHER VERSIONS

One newspaper account of the shooting indicated that Mr. Johnson was shot on board a River trolley while in a scuffle with the operator. This account was based on a report made by Detectives H. C. Newton and J. A. Preston. Another newspaper account, based on a report made by Officers J. V. Linn and N. W. Flanagan quoted the street car operator as saying, "the Negro cursed me and reached in his pocket as though he was going to draw out a gun or knife. I then shot him."

The Atlanta Daily World rechecked the police report, Monday and this particular report quoted the street car operator as saying, he ran out of a beer joint yelling and cursing me." This report also quoted the motorman as saying that the veteran attempted to strike him wih his fist. Officers Linn and Flanagan listed three eye-witnesses to the shooting: Mrs. Lula Sims, colored, of 297 Hayes Street, N. W. H. G. Potts, white of 446 Simpson Street, N. W. and James Marshall, colored 346 Tyler Street, N W.

RELEASED ON "COPY"

Witness to the shooting told Atlanta World reporters, Monday, that the motorman was not arrested, immidiately after the incident. The police report, however, indicated that he had been arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and shooting at another. Around 3 o'clock, Monday, The Atlanta World checked with the Lieutenants' Office at the Police Station and learned that he had been released on "copy". The Recorder's Court hearings were set for Wednesday, October 9, at 4:30 p. m. Daily World

Mr. Johnson was in the Army for three years and six months, having served in England, France and Germany. He was honorably discharged in November, 1945. He was living with his wife and three-year old son, Walter Lee Johnson, Jr., at address listed above. He was a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, and was employed at Zac-Lac Paint and Lacquer Co., 350 Simpson Street. Atlanta, Ga.

The other homicide victim was Jimmie Louis Burston, 27, of 105 Postel Street N. W. who was stabbed on September 20, at 157 Davis Street. He died at Grady Hospital on September 24, but the officers did not make a report until after the suspect was arrested in Detroit, Sunday. Tues. 10-1-46

Dectives J. E. Helms and W. M. Holland quoted eye-witnesses as saying that the victim was stabbed by Miss Gerturde "Tommie" Moody 22, while he was engaged in an argument with her sister. These witnesses told the police that the victim was not doing anything to the suspect at the time he was sabbed.

Another Slaying By Motorman

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Thurs. 10-3-46

The shooting Saturday night of Walter Johnson, 22, veteran by a street car motorman on the River line marks the third such tragedy in our city this year. Johnson died early Sunday morning as a result of a bullet wound inflicted in his lower abdomen.

In May a motorman of the Hunter Street line shot instantly dead another veteran while he was on the sidewalk. Like this case, Johnson was shot while he was on the sidewalk and the question is immediately raised as to why should a motorman of a street car leave his station to shoot a citizen down in the street?

There are other questions in this last killing that will be equally difficult for the defense to explain. As flagrant as the facts in the case seem to us or the basis of reports received we do not wish to discuss further the matter before the courts have had time to act. But we do wish to say that we hope the police officers and the courts will give due consideration of the true facts regarding this case and others involving the taking of Negro life or any human life

Another Killing

Daily Word

The instant killing of a youth and ex-serviceman Wednesday night by a motorman on the West Hunter Street line points out again the cheapness with which the lives of Negroes are valued. Atlanta Ga.

Only about three weeks ago a motorman on the West Fair Street line shot and seriously wounded another youth.

But the recent killing of the young man Wednesday could not escape our comment in view of the facts reported to the World by eye witnesses and that the motorman who did the killing was only given by the investigating officers a "copy of the charges" which included "shooting at another" when they knew at the time of making the charges a young man lay dead in the street between the trolley car line and the sidewalk. Fri 4-12-46

This business of taking human life must become more serious less we all see regrettable consequences.

The hearing scheduled for yesterday which attracted a court-room full of Negro witnesses and spectators was postponed until next Thursday and we urge our readers to remain calm and allow the matter to take its course through the courts.

But in the meantime we all must be concerned to see that the demands of justice are fully met in this case. We hope the family of the victims and the Atlanta Branch of the NAACP will leave no stone unturned to this end.

This paper has long contended that the type of intolerance toward Negroes as manifested in this recent slaying would exist so long as we are second-class citizens by virtue of the fact we don't vote. But now we have won our long fight to this end and we say again, every Negro who can qualify should do so and then we can win first-cass citizenship status.

Have you registered to vote?

To Africa

Constitution

Editor Constitution: I am answering W. Bernard Baker, II's, sarcastic criticism in Saturday morning's paper of gun-carrying street car operators. Wed 4-17-46

I believe if W. Bernard Baker II were a street car operator himself he would see the number of abuses we take from the public and I think he would change his point of view.

He also refers to the injury of one and the murder of one in the month and I think if he knew the cause of it he would change his judgment and not convict a man without a trial. Atlanta

It is the Negro lovers like him that incites the majority of the trouble between the Negroes and the whites. And also we, the operators, feel that if he loves the Negroes so well he should go to Africa and live with them.

Wed 4-17-46 PAUL F. JONES
637 Woods Drive, N. W.

Operators

Constitution

Editor Constitution: This is intended as a citation for the knight of the busy road, alert for passengers and pedestrians alike, the street car operator who seldom complains. Unnoticed, in the busy traffic he pauses in his work, to do good for all mankind. Through life's crowded ways the street car man transports the strong, the brave, protects the weak, the blind, supports the halt and maim. Wed 4-17-46

A type of persons of which we are justly proud, street car passengers are sometimes transported with serpents in human form, bipeds, drunk or doped, bearing death-dealing weapons, dangerous to all humankind. Despite the alertness of the street car man this element boards the cars. If they develop an ugly mood, the street car man uses his knowledge of human relations and when this fails, does the best he can to protect his passengers from injury. Operator for transport, guide to conduct, guard of the weak and helpless, humble servant of all, hero unsung, the patient street car man moves on. Atlanta Ga.

No brains, no character and no morals are needed to find fault. To run a street car requires all of these attributes, plus training energy, and concentration, permitting of no time for improper liaison with the police or any other group. Wed 4-17-46

If Mr. W. Bernard Baker, II, who, in the daily press of Saturday, April 13, 1946, criticized the street car conductors, will ride a crowded street car for one hour he will be more charitable toward a very splendid and unselfish group of Atlanta citizens.

VESTER M. OWNBY.
Atlanta.

Free Motorman Who Slew Vet.

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

Dixie White-Wash Of Killing Fought

Sat 4-20-46

ATLANTA, Ga.—An attempt to white-wash the slaying of a 22-year-old Army veteran and the wounding of another Negro by white street car motorman-conductor motivated civic leaders to action here this week.

Leading the fight in the prosecution of T. H. Purl who killed Madison Harris as he was leaving the car, are the Georgia Veterans League and the Atlanta Branch of the NAACP which moved into the case immediately.

Purl, booked on a charge of disorderly conduct, has been released on bond.

Case Postponed

Recorder's court last week postponed testimony of witnesses who claimed they saw Purl shoot Harris in the left temple while his empty hands were in the air. A previous hearing was postponed when defense counsel claimed he had insufficient time to prepare for the trial.

According to reliable witnesses, Harris boarded the West Hunter street car and rode about six blocks before getting off by the rear door. The motorman, it was reported, called to him as he passed by the front end of the car and said: Sat 4-27-46

"Boy, give me that gun."

Harris, according to witnesses, immediately raised his hands in the air, and Purl fired, the bullet striking Harris in the left temple, causing death instanteously.

No words were spoken between the motorman and the slain man, a spokesman witnessing the shooting said. Other witnesses reported the white man thought he had seen a pistol inside Harris' pocket, and he took advantage of what looked like the opportunity "to kill a Negro."

In the previous shooting, the victim suffered a flesh wound, and the case was dismissed. Civic groups, however, have promised further action in the case.

Daily News

Atlanta, Ga.

Finds Killing Justifiable Despite Testimony

Fri 4-19-46

WAY FINDS KILLING

In spite of the overwhelming testimony of reputable eye-witnesses definitely tending to establish the fact that the April 10 slaying of Madison Harris, 22-year-old veteran by T. H. Purl, street car motorman, of 2131 Bankhead Highway, was unwarranted, Recorder's Court Judge A. W. Callaway ruled that "to me, this is nothing but a case of justifiable homicide."

City police court was jammed to its capacity. Motormen and bus drivers of Georgia Power Power Company completely filled the two sections of the court-room, at least an hour before time for the hearing, which meant that a large number of interested Negro citizens had to stand.

After turning more than 150 Negroes away, policemen were stationed in front of the Police Station. According to authentic sources, these officers readily admitted white spectators, but in a dis-courteous manner continued to refuse admission to Negroes.

CONVINCING EVIDENCE

Fri 4-19-46

Representing the deceased Attorney A. Walton Nall and A. T. Walden presented convincing evidence against the defendant. They put eight on the spot witnesses, who were either on the street car or at the scene of the shooting on the stand his group included: Mrs. Caldonia Shanks, who was waiting to get on the car; J. F. Griffin, J. D. Williams, Aaron Diggs, Benn. Fleming, Arrie Jackson, Henry Poythress and Robert Tonsill.

These witnesses confirmed the fact that the deceased was on the side-walk, apparently on his way home, when the motorman called him and said, "Boy, give me that gun." These witnesses also testified that Harris had his empty hands in the air, when the motorman fired the fatal shot; that he did not threaten the motorman; and added that when the policemen arrived, one of the officers found a pistol in the right hip-pocket of the deceased.

ONLY ONE WITNESS CLAIMS HE SAW GUN

The only conflicting evidence presented by Attorney William Schley Howard, defense counsel was given by Ed Atkins, of 418 Magnolia Street. Atkins, who was later referred to by Attorney Howard as "Uncle Ed" claimed that he was sitting three seats from the rear of the car. He was the only witness who claimed that the young veteran had a gun in his hand at the time he was shot.

Officer R. S. Stowers, who, together with his partner J. J. Morris arrived on the scene shortly after the slaying, testified that the pistol was found under the body of the deceased, rather than in his right hip-pocket. Mrs. Gertrude Maddox told the judge that she got off the car at Hunter and Vine Streets because the victim and the motorman had been arguing and she was afraid there was going to be some trouble.

WITNESSES "BACK-FIRE"

The first two witnesses for the defense "back-fired." Attorney Howard told the judge that he was going to prove that the deceased was going around creating trouble on the day of the shooting. His first two witnesses, Lester Napthier, proprietor of a pool room on Mitchell Street and Samuel Carroll, proprietor of Dew Drop Inn on Ashby Street denied that the deceased had caused a disturbance in their establishments during the day. It was then that Atorney Howard attempted to impeach his own witnesses. Fri 4-19-46

In summarizing the case, Attorney Howard cited an old law which gives operators of street cars and buses police power, and re-stated the testimony of Atkins and Officer Stowers. Attorney Nall stated that in the face of overwhelming evidence the defendant should be held on a charge of murer. Attorney Walden emphasized the fact that since it was a case of "Uncle Ed's" testimony against the testimony of the other witnesses, he sole question confroning the judge was the probability of guilt, and added that there was sufficient evidence to warrant that the defendant be bound over.

Many of the Negroes attending the hearing were young people from Atlanta's colleges and high schools. These young people expressed themselves as being alarmed over the outcome of the trial.

An official of the local NAACP who attended the hearing stated that he hoped that steps will be iniiated to take "police power" away from motormen on Negro lines.

Atlanta jots down more "justifiable homicides"

Tribune

ATLANTA, Ga.—T. H. Purl, streetcar motorman, and Arthur Frieberg, railway mail clerk, both white, were cleared last week of the slaying of two Negro youths, Madison Harris and Phinizie Summerour, when the Fulton county grand jury returned "no bills" in their favor. Sat. 6-1-46

Purl killed Harris, a World War II veteran, in the streets last April 10, and was freed at a recorder's court hearing when Judge A. W. Callaway adjudged the case "justifiable homicide". Frieberg killed Summerour last Fall because the Negro assertedly cursed him and shot at him first.

Veteran, County's Lone Voter, Is Assassinated by 4 White Men

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md

Sat 6-8-46

BUTLER, Ga.—Apparently because he boldly exercised his Constitutional right to vote in the Georgia Democratic primary, piercing Snipe's abdomen, wounding him fatally. When he got up to answer, four shots rang out, three of the slugs Maceo Snipes, World War II veteran, was cold-bloodedly shot down when the four white men drove up and called her son by name. He was seated at his dinner table, according to his mother, of the belief that this single act signed his death warrant. Snipes was the only colored voter in Taylor County to insist on his right to cast a ballot in the election. Local observers were here last week by four white men, who were acquitted later by a coroner's jury on the plea of "self defense."

Motorman Slays Youth

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

At Door Of Trolley

Thurs 4-11-46

The twentieth homicide of the year was added to Atlanta Police Records, late Wednesday afternoon when Madison Harris, 22, of 38 Maple Street, S. W., Apt No. 2 was pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady Hospital.

According to Officers R. S. Stowers and J. J. Morris, T. H. Purl of 2130 Bankhead Highway, motorman on an East-bound Irwin Street Car was booked on a charge of Disorderly Conduct and Shooting Another and was released on "copy."

The police reported that when they arrived on the scene and the vicinity of Mitchell and Walnut Streets, they found the deceased lying on the street with a bullet wound in the left temple.

One of the eye-witnesses to the slaying told The World last night that the deceased got off at the rear door of the car. The informant was waiting to get on the car, but the motorman did not open the door until the victim, who was walking down the street was even with the door.

According to this eye-witness, the motorman opened the door and said "boy give me that gun." "When the victim saw the motorman's gun, he put his empty hands straight up in the air," the witness said, "and as he did so, the motorman shot him." The World learned that the police found a pistol in Harris' pocket.

HEARING AT 2:30 TODAY

The hearing will be held in Recorder's Court at 2:30 this afternoon. Several representative citizens called the Atlanta World late last night in connection with the crime. These citizens are anxious to have all witnesses to the slaying present in Recorder's Court this afternoon. These witnesses are also asked to meet a Committee from the N. A. A. C. P. at 10:30 this morning at the Y. M. C. A.

Thurs 4-11-46

This was the second shooting of a youngster by a motorman in less than two weeks. On March 30, a 20-year-old-youth was shot by a motorman on the West Fair Car and Fair Streets.

Klan Blamed For Murder And Flogging

Secret Police Hunt Killers of Taxi Man

James Dispatch

ATLANTA, GA., June 7—(UP)—A murder and a flogging were blamed on the revived Ku Klux Klan today as secret agents of the State of Georgia probed for criminal evidence against the hooded order that would stand up in court. Sat 6-8-46

Assistant State Attorney-General Dan Duke, who strode into court with a bull whip in his hand six years ago to convict the Klan on a similar charge, accused modern "knights" of lashing a 21-year-old Negro Navy veteran 52 times at gun point. Richmond

At the same time, secret operatives of the FBI-trained Georgia Bureau of Investigation who have infiltrated the Klan's most secret conclaves picked up clues that turned them to the investigation of a year-old unsolved murder of a Negro taxicab driver. Va.

The body of middle-aged Porter Flournoy Turner, a Negro cabbie, was found sprawled in front of a doctor's fashionable suburban home last August.

Dragon Is Scornful

Police told United Press today that every means of solving the crime had been pursued but the case is still an official mystery. Officers were more inclined to suspect robbery or a woman as the motive rather than Klan vengeance. 6-8-46 Sat.

Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Klan in Georgia, described both accusations as "preposterous" and said he would not be surprised at any time to find that his order had been blamed with setting the La Salle Hotel fire in Chicago. Richmond

Green said he thought the public, itself, would soon realize that the State is "more interested in persecution of the Klan than in prosecution." Virginian

"I'd need a lot more evidence than I have now to lay the balme for that killing on the Klan," said a police investigator.

But State agents, working themselves into the Kavalier Klub which they described as the Klan's "strong arm squad for rough work," said they had overheard Kavaliers still bragging about the killing of a Negro last August. They plan to investigate.

James Dispatch

Name of the flogging victim was not revealed by Duke who said it may jeopardize the State's case to do so at this time. The Negro was employed as a bellhop by an Atlanta hotel, he said.

The prosecutor said the Negro told him he was accosted the night of February 13 by four men who stopped him in an Atlanta suburb and forced him into their car at gun point. 6-8-46 Sat.

After asking him where he worked, he said, one of the men said, "We're going to beat the hell out of you." Richmond

Two other cars joined the first and he was whisked out of town to a lonely spot, the Negro's story continued, and there he was forced to fall to his hands and knees. In that position, he said, nine men gave him 52 lashes with a two-tailed leather whip. Va.

After it was over, said the Negro, he was ordered to start walking toward Atlanta and not to dare look back. He could not identify his tormentors but said one of the men remarked that he had once seen a white man struck by a Negro soldier overseas and was out to get revenge.

A check with police at College Park near which the flogging allegedly took place revealed that the same night they had received an emergency call from a Negro house there. Several men wearing badges and saying they were policemen had forced their way into the house, pretending to be looking for a Negro who had been accused and then acquitted of stealing vegetables. 6-8-46

Only a few hours later the other Negro was picked up in the same neighborhood and whipped.

It was recalled that in a previous Klan beating which led to the conviction of nine members by Duke in 1940, the whippers flashed false badges and identified themselves as policemen.

After Voting

The Courier

Georgia Veteran Shot to Death

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 8-3-46

BUTLER, Ga.—(NNPA)—A coroner's jury investigating the killing of Macio Snipes, war veteran, found that he was shot by "Edward Cooper in self defense" last Thursday.

Snipes was the only colored man to enter a polling booth in the Rupert District of Taylor County during the recent Democratic primary.

Sheriff J. M. Bone said he was told that Cooper, a white man, accompanied by another white man, went to Snipes' home to collect a $10 debt. During the discussion that followed, said Bone, Snipes is reported to have drawn a knife.

Snipes' mother, Mrs. Lulu Snipes, told the sheriff that four men drove up to her home and summoned her son from the dinner table. A few minutes later, she testified, she heard shots and her son re-entered the house bleeding from abdominal wounds.

Negro Killed

The Constitution

HAWKINSVILLE, Dec. 28—One violent death was reported here during Christmas and a Coroner's jury exonerated King Tripp, Jr., of killing Lucius Everett, a Negro, on Christmas Eve, near the city. Atlanta, Ga. Sun. 12-29-46

Taylor County Veteran Shot Day After Primary Dies In Butler Hospital

Daily World Atlanta Ga.

7-27-46

BUTLER, GA., (SNS)— Macio Snipes, veteran of World War II and the only Negro to cast a vote in the Rupert District of Taylor County in the State Democratic primary July 17, died in the Montgomery Hospital in Butler Saturday of gun shot wounds inflicted by Edward Williamson (Cooper) white. Thursday

Mrs. Lulu Snipes, mother of the dead man, told the sheriff, J. M Bone of Taylor County, that as she and her son,, with whom she lived sat at a table four white men drove to the house and called her son by name. He left the table to see what they wanted. Shortly thereafter she heard the shots and her son reentered the house bleeding in the abdomen.

She ran to Homer Chapman who helped take Snipes to the hospital Chapman told the sheriff that Snipes said Edward Cooper had shot him. Sat.

Testifying at the Coroner's inquest Williamson said that Snipes owed him $10 which he and Linwood Harvey went to collect. He said that Harvey offered to pay the bill if Snipes would work it out. An argument followed during which Williamson said Snipes drew a knife and Williamson, in turn took a pistol from the glove compartment of his car and shot Snipes. 7-27-46

The jury returned the following verdict:

"We the jury find that Macio Snipes came to his death by a pistol bullet fired by Edward Cooper in self-defense."

Williamson is the true name of the slayer, the sheriff said. Since childhood he has intermittently used the name of Cooper, that of his grandparents who reared him

Bullets, Vote Not Connected In Taylor Death

Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

7-26-46

The only Negro to enter the polling booth in the Rupert District of Taylor County cast his first and final vote in the Democratic Primary July 17; a coroner's jury ruled the ballot and bullets involved were not connected.

The Negro, Macio Snipes, veteran of World War II, cast his vote on election day, was shot Thursday, and died in the Montgomery Hospital in Butler, Saturday. Friday

The dead man's mother, Lulu Snipes, told Sheriff J. M. Bone, of Taylor County, that four men drove up to the house in which she lived with her son, on Thursday. The men called him by name; he left the table to see what they wanted. The next thing she knew, Lulu Snipes told the sheriff, she heard shots fired, and her son reentered the house bleeding from the abdomen.

She ran to the home of Homer Chapman for help, she told the sheriff. Chapman, who helped take the wounded Negro to the hospital, told the sheriff, when questioned, that Snipes said he was shot by "Edward Cooper."

Monday there was an inquest before Coroner J. D. Cooke. On the jury were Doc Brinkley, B. Steward, J. R. McKinzie, Tom Harmon, H. B. Walker, foreman, and R. Blackstock. Edward Cooper, who's real real name is Edward Williamson, was haled before them. He told the coroner's court Snipes owed him $10, and that he, with Linwood Harvey, operator of a sawmill, went to collect.

Harvey, Cooper said, offered to pay the $10 and let Snipes work it out. An argument ensued. Cooper said Snipes drew a knife, and that he, in turn, took a pistol from the glove compartment of the automobile and fired twice. The jury's findings:

"We the jury find that Macio Snipes came to his death by a pistol bullet fired by Edward Cooper in self-defense."

Cooper's true name is Williamson, under which he served in the Armed Forces, the sheriff said. He used the name of Cooper intermittently since childhood, for it is the name of the grandparents who reared him, Sheriff Bone explained.

Another Veteran Killed in Atlanta

The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla. Sat. 12-19-46

ATLANTA — (ANP) — Walter Lee Johnson, 22-year-old Rock street veteran, was slain last week by a Georgia Power company motorman who said the young man cursed him while attempting to board the trolly he was driving. The veteran was not on the street car at the time he was shot. A witness said he had hollered to a friend in a passing automobile, "Straighten up and fly right."

The motorman, W. D. Lee, white, said he thought Johnson

The Black Dispatch

Negro cursed me and reached in to get a quick trial without the knowledge of prosecution counsel was talking to him, that he got his pocket as though he was going hired by the NAACP failed late off the car and asked the young to draw out a gun or knife. last week. Citizens were indignman to repeat those remarks. The then shot him." Sat. ant over the whole affair, since youth was shot after the motor- Given a "copy of charges," two other motormen have gone man's pistol snapped and the vete- charging disorderly conduct— free after ran tried to take it from him, ac- shooting another— the white ope- slaying Negro veterans cording to witnesses. The trolly rator was to be tried in recorder's on a trolley and bus during the operator told officers that "the court on the charge. An attempt year. Oklahoma City, Okla.

16b 1946

Fiancee of Slain GI Demands Probe

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

BOSTON — Miss Florence Warren, 22 Phillips St., who says that she was engaged to T/4 George H. Jones, shot to death in Honolulu on Nov. 15 by Capt. Louis H. Alton, white, told the AFRO last week that she intends to demand a thorough investigation of the killing.

Although complete details in the case are lacking, Capt. Alton charged that Jones threatened him with a knife. Miss Warren, however, doubts this printed version of the tragedy.

Sat.

Wants Officer Tried

"It is a horrible outrage," she declared. "I want to knof if the white officer has been brought to trial. It's a poor way to treat a twice-enlisted man." 11-30-46

Jones died the next day at Schofield Barracks hospital as a result of two shots from a .30-caliber carbine. The shooting took place at the officers' club on the post where Jones was a waiter.

Two Killed By White Vet

Attacked By Men Ex-Marine Claims

A white ex-marine, carrying a German luger without a permit, told Stanton Avenue police Sunday he shot and killed a Negro veteran and fatally injured another man when the two attempted to attack him with a hatchet in the rear of 3211 Rhodes ave.

Firing the fatal shots was Robert Van Winkle, 28, 632 Groveland Park, caretaker of his father's building where the shooting occurred.

The slain men were identified as Harry Walker, 30, 3215 Rhodes ave., World War II veteran, and Arthur Seymour, 28, 3415 Vernon ave., a laborer. Seymour died in Bridewell Hospital the day after the shooting.

Winkle, whose statement to police was corroborated by Mrs. Primer Jones and Mrs. Rosalee Best, building tenants and eye witnesses to the shooting, declared that Walker seized the hatchet with which he was chopping wood and swung it at him.

"I backed away and shot him," said Winkle. "Then the other man started for me and I shot him."

Winkle said he had never seen the men before. He said he carried the gun because he had been threatened previously by another man in the neighborhood.

Van Winkle is being held without charges pending a coroner's investigation.

2 Eye-witnessess Tell Different Story Of GI Shooting By Conductor

New Orleans, La.
Sat 5-4-46
Louisiana Weekly

Testimony by two eye-witnesses this week has cast an entirely different light on the shooting last week of Pvt. Frank Odom by street car conductor Lloyd Dade. These latest facts would indicate that it was wanton bloodthirstiness and not self-defense which prompted the shooting.

Ex-First Lieutenant John V. Durand, a dispatcher at the Jackson Barracks motor pool, boarded the car at the same time as Odom and the other soldiers. In a signed statement to the Louisiana Weekly, he outlines the action on the car as follows: Somewhere between St. Andrew and Howard Avenue a soldier, who was seated directly behind the screen, picked up the screen and threw it out of the window. The conductor saw him do it and ran up to talk to him. They exchanged words and the conductor went back to his post, muttering to himself. The soldiers began murmuring among themselves and Pvt. Odom said that the conductor had better not fool with them if he did not want to get thrown off the street car. As the conductor reached the back of the car an elderly man cautioned him against arousing the soldiers. The man's tone was quiet but the conductor, apparently spoiling for a fight began an argument. He pulled out his gun and pointed it at the man. The man lunged at him and the two grappled. During the scuffle the conductor's arm was pushed through the glass window and received a severe cut which he later charged was done by a knife.

As soon as the fight started everyone began running off the street car. When all but a few had left the car the conductor started toward the front, revolver in hand and fired at the last soldier, Odom. The soldier did not fall and managed to get about ten feet outside the car, where the conductor fired again. This time the soldier fell and was aided by an unidentified white man. Durand then left the scene to locate one of the company officers. Sat 5-4-46

The statement of Sgt. Lee Middlebrooks corroborates that of Durand. He says that the trouble started as soon as the soldiers boarded the car. One of them sat in the front of the screen and immediately antagonized the conductor. He spoke to the soldier and the screen was moved. But the conductor kept on muttering and when the elderly man in the rear of the car tried to calm him he took offense and started a fight. By this time the car had reached Poydras and Rampart Streets and the two men started to scuffle. Middlebrooks, too, points out that it was broken glass and not a knife that cut the conductor's arm. Sat 5-4-46

When the car stopped, Middlebrooks states, the conductor and the old man got off the car. The conductor fired two shots outside the car and came back swearing that he was going to kill all the colored passengers. By this time only four or five soldiers remained on the car and they were trying to get off. Odom was the last one of the group and as the conductor started up the aisle, he fired at point-blank range, hitting the soldier in the back. He fired two shots, Middlebrook says. Odom limped out of the car (when the shots were fired he was only a few feet from the front entrance) and the conductor, standing in the doorway, fired two more shots. Sat 5-4-46

Odom fell to the ground and was assisted by a white man who held off the conductor, who, having emptied his gun was trying to beat Odom over the head with it. Middlebrook went into a store to phone the MP's and when he returned the civilian police had arrived and taken control.

The story given out by a public service official stated that Odom had knifed the conductor and that he had fired at the soldier in self-defense. The story admitted the firing of only two shots, not the six that Middlebrook insists were fired.

Seek Probe Of New La. Death

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.
Fri. 10-18-46

NEW ORLEANS—(SNS)—A probe by parish, state and federal authorities into the mysterious death of Stephen Johnson, about 55 years of age, 1714 Thayer street, Algiers, Louisiana, was asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Monday through the executive secretary, Daniel E. Byrd, who sent a report to the national NAACP office in New York.

Johnson's death was strikingly similar to that of John C. Jones, victim of a lynch mob in Minden, La., two months ago, and occurred under circumstances hinting a possible lynching less than 15 miles from New Orleans on Tuesday.

The aged man, according to information received, had been engaged in an altercation with Joseph Billict, white, a conservation agent for the Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, on Tuesday. That was the last time Johnson was seen alive.

NAACP Asks Probe In Slaying Of Taxi Company Owner

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

(Special to the Defender)

NEW ORLEANS—That the district attorney at once probe the fatal shooting on Oct. 25 of a 45-year-old Negro owner of a taxicab company by the brother of his white business competitor was the demand last week of the NAACP branch here through its executive secretary, Daniel E. Byrd.

Investigation by a newspaperman and NAACP directors disclosed that no arrest followed the recent shooting of Willie Rackett, owner of the Amite, La., taxicab company for 14 years. Several months ago a white man named Lee, one of several brothers engaged in the dairy business near Amite, opened up a second cab business. When whites and Negroes continued to patronize Rackett, the latter had to complain to Sheriff Edwards that his drivers were being persecuted and he himself threatened.

Allegedly, 15 minutes after Rackett had made his complaint, the Lees arrived in a car at his stand and shot him four times. A passenger was injured also, and Rackett died in hospital at Independence shortly afterwards.

16b 1946

Negroes, by Whites (Miss.)

Jail Miss. White In Boy's Killing

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

Assailant Drinking At Time Of Shooting

Sat 4-20-46

LEXINGTON, Miss.—Thad Dickerson, 51-year-old white night watchman of Pickens, Miss., was in jail here this week for the fatal shooting of Chenley Dennis, 16, on Pickens' main street.

Witnesses state that the shooting occurred in front of a cafe on Lexington st., frequented by Negro patrons. As the lad, on his way to play basketball, met Dickerson, the latter began to curse and brandished a gun.

Ran When Threatened

When Dickerson continued to threaten him, Dennis ran but had only gone a short distance when the man shot him in the hip. Dickerson then caught up with the youngster and fired a bullet through his heart.

The arrest was made by Mayor Hardie McKie in the absence of the Holmes County sheriff. The mayor said that Dickerson, who is employed at the Pickens natural gas plant, had been drinking and was carrying a .32 caliber revolver at the time of his apprehension.

Sheriff W. L. Murtagh immediately requested that the Holmes County grand jury re-convene to consider the case.

South African, Posed As Negro, Convicted Of First Degree Murder

New York Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
Sat. 5-18-46

A native South African white man, who had lived here as a Negro for many years, was found guilty of first degree murder last Friday following a four-day trial in General Sessions before a blue-ribbon jury of men and Judge Jonah Goldstein.

He is John Bester, 40, who was living at 107 W. 114th Street when Police picked him up last March 19 for the robbery and murder of Mrs. Florence Berger Miller, the landlord of the tenement where Bester worked occasionally as helper to the "super," Mrs. Clara Tucker.

Bester, whose sweetheart was Mrs. Tucker's niece, is scheduled to be sentenced on June 4. It is not likely that he will be given the death penalty, however, because the jury recommended mercy.

On the witness stand in his own behalf, Bester testified that he was so intoxicated when Mrs. Miller was bludgeoned and knifed to death that he could not remember anything.

Nevertheless, the defendant did admit taking the victims' wrist watch and $50 in cash.

Police testified that Bester had been trying to borrow $50 a few days before the slaying, and had explained to some of his friends that he wanted to send his girl friend, Florence Fenner, railroad fare for her return home from North Carolina where she had gone to attend the funeral of her mother.

At first when Mrs. Miller's body was discovered in the basement of the building in 114th St., where she had gone to collect rent, the brutal murder remained a mystery for several days. Sat. 5-18-4

Soon the neighbors began investigating and Bester, who was known as "a liquor head," became a suspect. Then one day he confessed the murder to a neighbor who later informed detectives.

When arrested, Bester was seated at a Lenox Avenue bar so drunk that it was necessary to assist him in walking.

Man in baffling duel with white girl dies

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 9-7-46

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.—Percy Martin, 47-year-old porter at the American Red Cross office here, died last week in the hospital where he had been taken after his mysterious knife-and-axe duel with a 19-year-old white girl, Frances Anastasio, also reported near death.

The Westchester county district attorney's office has continued, without result, to probe for the motive of the fight, which occurred at the Red Cross offices where Miss Anastasio is also employed, as a clerk.

Both the dead man and the girl accused each other of striking the first blow before they lapsed into unconsciousness. They are reported to have known each other for three years, Martin recently having been employed by the girl's father to do some odd jobs. Friends of both described them as mild-mannered.

A friend of the Anastasio family, Sam De Salvo, was firm in his opinion that there had been no intimacy between the two. De Salvo blamed the whole affair on the stern attitude of the girl's father toward her social life. There were other rumors, however, that an affair between the two did exist.

Niece Denies Love Caused Fatal Duel

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

BY RICHARD DIER

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—Sensational developments in the hatchet and jackknife duel-to-the-death between a 43-year-old porter and a 19-year-old white girl in the local Red Cross basement office where both were employed on Aug. 23 were uncovered by AFRO, investigations this week.

Percy Martin, who died from knife wounds a day after the battle, was revealed as a fragile and asthmatic person by relatives and friends, who discounted in its entirety the story that he had been "friendly" or having "an affair" with the girl, Frances Anastasio.

"The reason for the violent quarrel that precipitated the incident was given as the girl's having consistently annoyed the porter and bossed him around too much.

Story Denied by Police

Also, White Plains police and the Parkway Police of Bronxville, N.Y., who have assumed jurisdiction of the case, are denying that Martin gave them a "story" of what really happened before he died.

Relatives are insistent that he gave an account of the tragedy and state that with his death and the fact that there were no witnesses around, the girl will go scot free when she recovers.

No Charge Against Girl

Proof of the latter is already evident: Frederick E. Weeks Jr., Assistant District Attorney of White Plains, told the AFRO in an exclusive interview that he had prepared a felonious assault charge against Martin just before his death. The Afro-American

However, he admitted that no charge was contemplated against the girl at the present time.

Mrs. Zelma Martin, a niece by marriage of the deceased man, who has an apartment in the same three-story stucco house at 85 West Post Rd. where he resided, gave the AFRO exclusive details of what transpired after the battle. Baltimore, Md.

The first person on the scene was an elevator operator, Helen, who opened the elevator doors in the basement of the County Building where the Red Cross had its shipping and receiving department.

There she saw Martin and Miss Anastasio on the floor, their clothes all bloody and the hatchet and knife lying nearby.

When she ran to Percy to aid him, she said, he cried, "Don't bother with me . . . take care of her first," then fainted in agony, blood gushing from his wounds. Police were called.

Witnesses told Mrs. Martin that the girl was carried out of the building with a white sheet wrapped around her; while Martin was brought out uncovered, his horrible wounds exposed for all to see.

Notified by the Red Cross of the tragedy at 4 p.m., about an hour later, Mrs. Martin immediately went to White Plains Hospital to see her uncle, but was refused admittance into his room Later, both her husband, William and his parents went to the hospital but also were turned away Here is Mrs. Zelma Martin's story:

Ignored by Physician

"While I was in the emergency waiting room, Dr. McAvoy, a staff physician, came over to me and asked whom I wanted to see. When I said I was Percy Martin's niece and wanted to see him, Dr. McAvoy just walked away from me without answering.

"I told attendants that it was a matter of life and death and that all I wanted was a few words with my uncle.

"I might as well have been talking to the wall. They said his condition was too critical and that he wasn't allowed to talk to anyone; that he had to get a blood transfusion and be taken into the operating room.

Forced to Live Quietly

"My uncle was a fine man," said Mrs. Martin. "He never drank. He had asthma and took injections at the hospital for it. He never even went to the movies because he complained the ventilation was bad for his condition.

The dead man weighed around 120 pounds and was around five feet five inches. The girl was slim and around five feet two inches in height.

Never Brought Women In

Mrs. Martin completely discounted the story of an "affair" between the two. She said her uncle never went out in the evening, and never brought a woman home.

"The detectives tried to make me say that Percy once brought a white woman here to his room. It's a lie and I denied every word of it. Sat. 9-7-46

Martin and Miss Anastasio worked together in the Red Cross basement, opening up packages sent to the local chapter. Since he was classified as a porter and she as clerk, she evidently felt she was in charge.



PERCY MARTIN fatality in mystery ax-knife slaying.

Miss Anastasio clothing showed that such an attempt had been made.

Martin, engaged in the death struggle with Miss Anastasio on the afternoon of August 23, police say, in a basement room of the Westchester County Office Building which is located in the heart of White Plains' business area.

He died the following day after intimating that the tragedy was the unexpected climax of a "q. t." interracial romance which the couple had carried on for nearly two years.

Miss Anastasio's brief statement to District Attorney George Fanelli last weekend did not accuse Martin of rape, as some police officials had apparently hoped. Neither did the 19-year-old choir singer recall any previous arguments with Percy.

Most amazing of the many angles to the story, however, is the complete absence of any official desire to file formal charges of murder against the attractive young woman.

Miss Anastasio, who lives in nearby Harrison, is expected to be released from the hospital soon and it is believed that she will be permitted to return to her home without the customary Grand Jury inquiry. To bolster their attempt to accuse Martin of criminal assault, detectives "disclosed that a test of

Negro Killed and White Girl Hurt In Ax-and-Knife Battle

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

White Plains, N. Y., Aug. 24 (AP)—An 18-year-old white girl clerk, wounded in an ax-and-knife battle in which a 43-year-old Negro male acquaintance was injured fatally in the American Red Cross office here, continued in a critical condition tonight in White Plains Hospital. Sun 8-25-46

The young woman, Frances Anastasi, choirsinger, and an employee of the Red Cross, was found unconscious, her skull fractured and head cut, in a rest room adjoining a blood-spattered sewing room in the basement of the Red Cross office.

Percy Martin, Negro porter, died of stab wounds in the chest less than 20 hours after the battle. Martin was quoted by an assistant district attorney as having said before he died that he had been friendly with the girl, but that they had quarreled and she attacked him with a knife. He battled her with an ax.

District Attorney George M. Fanelli declined to reveal the nature of a statement which he said Martin made before he died. No charges have been filed against the girl.



Associated Press Wirephoto.
FRANCES ANASTASI
Wounded in ax-knife battle.

Ax Girl Says Her Mind Went Blank

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.
Sat.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.—This girl involved, had been quoted as saying:

city's much gossiped about knife-and-hatchet duel which ended in the fatal stabbing of a Red Cross supply room clerk developed into an even deeper "mystery" this week

After Frances Anastasio, the white

"All I can remember is that I saw Percy, and my mind went blank."

The victim, 43-year-old Percy

SLAIN MAN AN EX-CONVICT

New York Times

Martin, Who Fought With Girl, Had Served Three Terms

New York

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Aug. 26 —Percy Martin, 43 years old, who was fatally wounded in the county office building here on Friday in a knife and hatchet duel with a 19-year-old girl, had served three jail terms, District Attorney George M. Fanelli said today.

The prosecutor said that in 1927 Martin, a Negro, was sent to Sing Sing prison for three to six years for shootink a New Rochelle man and woman, in 1923 was jailed for three months for a Harison larceny and in 1918 was sentenced to a year for a Harrison "cutting match."

Tues 8-27-46

Martin died on Saturday in the White Plains Hospital. The girl, Miss Frances O. Anastasio, has a triple fracture of the skull and remained on the critical list tonight at the hospital. Both were employed at the Westchester County American Red Cross production center, where the duel occurred.

16b 1946

Negroes, b hites (North Carolina)

White who killed Negro, indicted

The Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.

WILMINGTON, N. C.—Lawson Pridgen, white, charged with the fatal stabbing of Jerry Corgett, Negro, Aug. 3, was last week indicted by the grand jury here and ordered held without bail. An accessory is at liberty under $1,000 bond.

Sat. 8-31-46

16b 1946

Negroes, by Whites (South Carolina)

South Caroling Negro Is Slain in a Dispute; Sheriff Says Murder Is Laid to White Man

Times New York, N.Y. Sat. 8-17-46

BARNWELL, S. C., Aug. 16 (U.P.) —James Walker, Negro, was shot and killed at Elko, S. C., last Monday, and Bill Craig, a white man, was released on $2,000 bail after being held here on murder charges, Sheriff Jeff Black revealed today.

The sheriff said Walker was shot in the yard of his home, after an argument with Craig, the latter's brother, John, and two other men.

The sheriff said the Negro had a gun "but I do not know if the Negro fired any shots."

"Only one bullet struck him but he was killed instantly," he added.

According to the sheriff, Walker had been drinking and entered a filling station owned by John Craig. After an argument and a scuffle, the Negro, the sheriff said, left in a car, cursing and vowing he would get a gun and "kill you before tomorrow night."

The sheriff said that the Craigs followed Walker to his hime and found him there with a gun. The shooting followed. Sat. 8-17-46

No charges were filed against John Craig or the other two white men—Barney Givens and Richard McCurley. An inquest was called for next Monday.

In Columbia, John McCray, editor of a Negro newspaper, said he had talked to witnesses of the slaying and he asked Gov. Ransome J. Williams to investigate. The editor said Walker was sitting on the steps of his home and that the Craigs fired "a stream of bullets" at him.

16b 194[illegible]

Berry Branch Sr., Shot By Bus Driver, Succumbs

The Informer
Houston, Texas
Sat. 9-28-46

HOUSTON.—Berry Branch, Sr., died Friday night. He had been shot by a driver on a Nance bus of which he was a passenger, Monday night, September 16. He died at the Jefferson Davis hospital where he was under treatment, at 10 p.m., September 20, closing the case so far as he is concerned. He is no longer interested in the drivers of busses carrying pistols.

The driver who shot him, told officers recently Branch cursed him. Mr. Branch isn't interested in that either. No matter what the driver and witnesses say, Berry Branch won't say a word.

He was on his way home from his little two-chair barber shop at 2412 McKinney avenue. He had been going home over this route since 1911, even before there was a Nance bus, and he might have made it Monday night if the driver and a youth had not argued.

The driver, L. E. Kinville who has been charged with murder in Judge W. C. Ragan's court, told officers he was arguring with the youth, Phillip Jackson, 17, of No. 8 Gillispie street, about Jackson's moving up against Linville's wife at the bus stop on Prairie and Fannin where, the driver says his wife, boarded the bus.

The Informer

Jackson boarded the same bus, and the bus had stopped at the intersection of Nance and Jensen Drive where the youth got off, before the argument started. The driver told officers he called the boy back on the bus and was 'talking' with him when Berry Branch got up from where he was sitting about midway the bus and came toward the front.

He says he called to the old man, telling him to 'go back to the back of the bus.' and that the old man went back to the back of the bus, but later started toward the front again with his hand in his pocket and after a brief passing of words, he shot the 65-year-old man. The wounded man said, "I was going to pay the fare; witnesses stated.

Houston, Texas

According to the driver, Berry Branch cursed him. None the witnesses interviewed reported hearing the old man curse and many of them told a different version of the incident which all claimed happened very quickly.

Phillip Jackson, the 17-year-old youth, denied to officers that he had moved up against the bus driver's wife at the bus stop. He said he got off from work and rode a Harrisburg bus to town and was waiting for a Nance bus. He said in a written statement, that the woman was standing near him. He had his arms on the fence of the parking lot near the bus stop and when he saw a bus coming, he stepped out from the fence to see what bus it was.

After finding the bus to be a Lyons, Jackson says he stepped back to the fence, leaned up against it and waited until a Nance bus came up. He caught the bus and had got off on Jensen Drive when the driver called him back on the bus and started arguring with him.

Sat. 9-28-46

Jackson's and the driver's stories that Berry Branch came to the front of the bus and that he went back when told by the driver and that he later came to the front again and was shot, were the same. Jackson differed with the driver on the cursing. He said he didn't hear it. He also said the old man had his hand in his pocket. Friends living near the barber shop on McKinney stated Monday that if Mr. Branch was 'wearing pants with pockets on them,' he probably had had hand in one He was in the habit of keeping one hand in a pocket, even when standing in the barber shop door, the friends stated.

Another witness told the Informer that after the old man was shot, the driver told some of the other passengers to straighten the wounded man out and said to the old man as he lay on the floor, 'you thought I was playing didn't you.'

This witness stated that the wounded man did not answer immediately but later gasped, 'I thought you were arguring about the fare and I came up to pay it.'

The witness stated that when the driver and the youth were arguing, they could not be heard at first but later they got louder and he heard the driver tell the boy, 'don't say yeah to me.' The boy said 'what,' and the driver then said, 'don't say what to me.' This witness did not hear the old man curse the driver, he stated.

The shooting of Berry Branch, Monday night, September 16, happened a little over a year after the slaying of James P. Williams, 1512 Schwartz street February 14, 1945. Williams was slain on a Lyons bus by the driver after an argument over whether or not Williams had paid his fare.

Williams who was accompanied on the bus by his mother who was going to a railway station to catch a train to her home, and a man friend of the mother. According to statements taker at the time, the friend had paid all three fares but the driver had not seen him do so. The driver called Williams who had gone to the back of the bus and when Williams went to the front he was shot after an argument with the driver. The driver was exonerated.

Other cases of pistol whippings of passengers by drivers have been reported and during the war years, it was a frequent occurance on the busses routed in thickly populated residential sections of Negro bus riders.

Negroes, by whites (rev s)

The most recent and one of the most brutal was the beating of a seaman by a driver on a Navigation bus in July of this year. The seaman, Curtis Gray, had his left eye removed at the Jefferson Davis hospital after the eye was cut in two by his glasses that were broken when he was struck by the bus driver.

Sat. 9-28-46

Travis Butler, World War II veteran, was shot by an inspector for the bus company, after arguring with a driver on a Dowling bus over a seat, January 6, this year. After he recovered in a hospital, Butler was charged with aggravated assault upon the inspector who shot him and later paid a fine of $25.

These and many other cases were reported to officers but the only record of anything having been done is the records of the victims of these drivers being charged themselves with aggravated assault upon the drivers, violating the jim crow law, disturbing the peace and others.

The situation became so violent during the war, a mass meeting was held in the Kelly Courts auditorium in protest against bus drivers carrying firearms. Mr. Cermack, then personnel manager for the bus company, was present at the meeting and made a speech against the practice. Nothing happened but more beatings and shootings.

A mixed group of citizens went to the City Hall, the district attorney and to the bus company last Tuesday. At each place they were told it was against the law for drivers to carry pistols. An assistant district attorney said the drivers do not have permits and Mr. Brown, manager, for the company, stated that, "We discourage drivers in carrying guns." He said the driver had not been fired, and that he did not know whether the driver was working Tuesday or not

16b 1946 Negroes, by Whites (West Virginia)

Miner shoots two Negro strikers

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 12-7-46

WELCH, W. VA., — McDowell county prosecutor Richard Parson has filed a murder charge against Sam Curry, 49, white mine foreman, for the fatal shooting of two Negro members of the United Mine Workers, that took place during the early days of the nation's coal strike.

Curry, foreman of the Little Pocahontas Coal company's truck mine at Eureka Hollow, 15 miles from here, shot the men during a dispute over his insistence on unloading coal from a truck after the strike order had been received.

The dead men are Roosevelt Thomas, 45, of Bottom Creek, a former UMW committeeman, and Will Hunt, 65.

Curry was not arrested for the shooting until last week, and the killings were not booked by local police, it is charged.

According to police reports, Hunt and Thomas tried to induce Curry and two other men who were unloading a truck to shut down the mine. Curry, angered, fired on them.

Although prosecutor Parson has said he is satisfied the case is just an "isolated instance" and not provoked by either the UMW or the mine operators", repercussions were indicated when Ray Thomason, of Welch, a union official, said he hopes "this is not a move on the part of the operators to return to the old days of thuggery".

Three GIs Held On Sex-Slaying Charge In Philippines

The Inquirer
Houston, Tex

By LOUIS A. JOHNS, Jr.

MANILA, P. I.—(ANP) — Three American Negro soldiers are being held at the old Bilibid prison here in the sex slaying of 45-year-old Mrs. Melitona Rarela, whose body was found brutally slashed in the famed walled-city section of the city on April 2. One of the soldiers is charged with the slaying and the other two as accessories to the crime.

Sat, 6-1-46

The three men were identified as frequent guests to the slain woman's home by her daughters, according to Lt. Col. J. E. Gieshier, provost marshal of Manila. The case is being handled by the U. S. Army Crime Investigation department, the Manila homicide detective division and the men's company officers who are preparing court-martial proceedings.

Military officials here refused to divulge the names of the three

Southland Leads In Murder Cases

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

MEMPHIS, — (ANP) — That the south leads the nation in the number of murders committed in proportion to population, but has a better record than west coast states when all major crimes are considered, is reported in the August issue of American magazine.

When it comes to crimes of violence against the person, murder and aggravated assault, the south is "way out ahead" of all other sections of the country, the article says. For example, statistics show 12 times as many murders per 1,000 people in the south last year as in New England.

The least crime-riddenareas during 1945, according to FBI records, all are located east of the Rocky mountains and north of the Mason-Dixon line with New Hampshire and Vermont having the nations's lowest law violation records. Sat. 7-13-46

Southern Negroes are discredited with their share of the murders, however, Dr. Ellsworth Huntington, Yale university's human geographer, has found that on the basis of white population alone, the 10 worst states for homicide in AAmerica still are in the south.

Murder-ridden states are found to be in the warmest section of the country, and the 12 states with the least killing are in the coldest section and along the Canadian border.

"As you go down the Atlantic Coast from New England to Florida, the murder ratio rises so uniformly that it is startling," the article reports, and contends that "citizens with weak wills and constitutions most often go beserk commit suicide , start riots, or kill somebody during the summer months."

The west today in really wild, the magazine says, giving as one reason the greatly increased population in the past 30 years, particularly in the past decade, with the influx of migratory workers, military personnel and camp followers. Most of the western criminals are said to be extremely young, "wild, irresponsible kids of about 17."

Along with New Hampshire, with a record of less than 10 crimes per 1,000 persons during 1945, are: New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and North Dakota. Sat. 7-13-46

Second lowest crime state, with a rate of 10 to 12.4 per 1,000 inhabitants are: Illinois, Maine, Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Iowa Louisiana and South Dakota.

The highest murder group includes Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. The highest over all crime rate group, with more than 30 per 1,000 inhabitants, includes Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Arizona. Far west offenses are primarily against property, burglary, theft, and robbery.

Young Jamaican In RAF To Face Charge Of Murder Due Racial Clash In England

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON.— Relations between coloured servicemen from the colonies and the natives of England are becoming so strained that the British Government is doing everything to expedite their repatriation in order to avoid further incidents.

Arising out of a battle between West Indians, chiefly Jamaicans, and Britishers in the heart of Manchester recently, Donald Gerald Newton Beard, a young Jamaican serving in the Royal Air Force, is now held in prison on a charge of murder.

This case has aroused the wide interest of the coloured population of Britain, who are contributing funds in response to an appeal from the Pan-African Federation, to provide the ablest legal defence for the young man.

PRESS STIRS EMOTIONS

Commenting on the case, Mr T. R. Makonnen, General Secretary of the Pan-African Federation, said that "in the past year there have been a number of sharp clashes between Jamaican and English servicemen and civilians.

"These incidents, more particularly in Liverpool, Bolton, Manchester, have now reached alarming proportions.

"If they continue unabated, it will not be possible to prophesy future development."

That the British press has had quite a hand in stirring up emotions is the opinion of Mr Makonnen, who maintains that the press has circulated sensational and incomplete versions based on the whims and prejudices of individual reporters.

"Every report of every incident has fostered in the public mind a bias founded not always or entirely on ignorance of the facts, but all too frequently on malicious forethought.

"West Indian servicemen have become identified en bloc with lawlessness.

"Such identification is wholly unwarranted and prejudicial.

POLICE NOT NEUTRAL

"Nor are the police always neutral," went on the Pan-African federation representative.

"They are not immune, by virtue of being police, from the factors influencing the general public.

"If they have so far pursued a policy of non-interference, such a policy can be just as effective as the policy of active persecution.

"Despite the disallowance of their civil rights, West publicity not only for the case itself but for the wider problem of racial discrimination in Britain, the Pan-African Federation, through its General Secretary, cabled Mr Norman Manley, the leading Jamaican barrister and President of the People's National Party and chief opposition leader to the local trade union boss, Alexander Bustamante, asking if he would be willing to come to England to lead the defence of Beard's case.

Mr Manley, who knows England, since he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and is an eminent King's Counsel, readily agreed, and arrangements are now afoot to get him the necessary plane reservations.

Mr Manley has recently been awarded an LL.D. degree by Howard University in appreciation of his services to West Indian nationalist awakening.

The Defence Committee and fund appeals to all Africans and peoples of African descent everywhere to support this fund by sending donations to the committee at 58, Oxford Road, Manchester, England.

In its appeal, the committee correctly states:

"No one is neutral.

"This is not only the fight for one man's life.

"It is a fight against Anglo-Saxon arrogance and racial antipathy, founded on colour."

Clash Between Black & White Results In Death

MANCHESTER. — In a clash between black and white in Piccadilly a Jamaicanh youth as been charged with murder and an appeal has been launched by Pan-African Federation for his defence

The appeal reads:

Those of you who are familiar with the relations existing between black and white people in this country, will be aware of the background of provocation and hostility that prevails.

Sudden outbursts of violence, hatred and resultant tragedy such as this latest happening, are the inevitable result of prejudice and distrust which has come to be accepted as normal wherever large numbers of colonial people are congregated in a white community

Though the prejudice is not so obvious to the casual observer as in other cities, Manchester expresses its covert hostility to coloured people in widespread refusal to let rooms to any other than white folk, and in anti-racial conditions of letting rooms to whites only on the understanding that no coloured visitors will cross their doors

British Racial Clash Fatal to Negro Airman

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, Sept. 28—(AP)—Association of Jamaican Negro airmen, with white girls in Manchester's Picadilly, was said by police today to have started a street battle in which a Manchester white man lost his life.

A Jamaican airman, Donald Gerald Newton Beard, 23, was bound over until October 7 on a charge of murder in connection with the fatal stabbing of John Edward Smith, 22.

Detective Inspector Frank Stainton testified that some civilians protested against presence of white girls with the Jamaicans and a fight ensued in which Smith was struck in the neck and killed.

Prejudice Causes Fatality in Britain

MANCHESTER, Eng. The objection of several white men, here last Saturday, to colored airmen squiring white girls, according to police, led to the death by stabbing of one of the whites and the arrest of a flier on a murder charge.

The airman, a Jamaican, Donald Gerald Newton Beard, 23, was bound over for Oct. 7 hearing, charged with fatally stabbing John Edward Smith, 22, white, in the neck in a street fight.

The fight started, Detective Inspector Frank Stainton testified, when some white civilians protested against the presence of white girls with Jamaicans in Manchester's Piccadilly.

Scholarship Mission Of Chief Results Of His Work In Nigeria

Lagos, West African

The following release on the chief results of his activities during ten months labour in Nigeria, has been issued by Prince Nwafor Orizu, President of the American Council on African Education.

The President of the council, mention much of that mission on Prince A. A. Nwafor Orizu, on his his first arrival in Lagos. early visits to some towns of Nigeria At that time, he only announced endeavoured to comply with his the desire of the American Council stages of action. on African Education to award

Thus, while it is true that he some scholarships, invited applica- visited several Nigerian towns of tions, and tried to acquaint the the North, he people with the ideals of the council.

The question of membership was opened during the president's second visit to Jos and thence- forth to Calabar, Aba, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Enugu.

These six towns have established branches.

Many individuals have become members of the council who do not reside in any of the six towns where the council's branches have been opened.

The foundation membership in education, and all these places have voted an amount of £5,002 8 0.

About half of this amount has been paid in cash.

The funds will be established college or colleges to put horizontal

for the execution of the council's programmes as stated in "Horizontal Education" Vol. I by A. A. Nwafor Orizu.

Among these are (1) establishing of libraries in all nooks and corners of Nigeria so that books by various authors of the world (not only British authors) will be available to the underdogs of our country (2) setting up of proper officers of information to enlighten Nigeria on the urgency of our need for education, and (3) to inform the world about Nigeria's need for education, so that benevolent humanity may run to our aid, building when possible,

education to test.

These and many other programmes best known to the American Council on African Education members are the items requiring funds which the members will contribute.

NOT SUPPORTED BY TAX

This council is not supported by the taxpayers.

Its taxpayers are the members who have faith in it and have voluntarily contributed to its programme.

It is therefore necessary to note that we are not obligated to give every Dick and Tom any kind of information in our activities except those which directly affect the public.

All the obligations of the council are self-imposed.

And our American and African members of the council and the president choose those obligations, and nobody else who is a non-member has a right to demand anything.

The membership is open to all races, nations and creeds.

It is a charitable work of all humanitarians. Wed. 10-16-46

We do not discriminate.

We already have English, French, Russian, American, Gold Coasters, East African, South African, West Indian, Nigerian, Sierra Leonians, etc. as members.

One enters either on our invitation or by writing to our headquarters in Port Harcourt, addressing to the Administrative Secretary of the council, or approaching the president personally.

Details of other achievements of the council will be published in future.

16b 1946

SLAYER OF OFFICER TO BE COMMITTED

Birmingham Ala. Age Herald

BESSEMER, Ala., March 4—(AP)—Circuit Judge Gardner T. Goodwyn ruled today that Isaiah Bush, Negro, charged with the slaying of a Bessemer police officer, is insane and ordered that he be committed to an institution. Iue. 3-5-46

The policeman, Shelly Kendricks, was shot to death last July 10.

At a sanity hearing before Judge Goodwyn, the defense offered evidence to show that the Negro was discharged from the Army as being mentally unfit.

Bush has been held in jail in Birmingham since his arrest shortly after the slaying. Iue. 3-5-46

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (Ala.)

Slayer Of Bessemer Officer Held Insane

Montgomery Advertiser Alabama

BESSEMER, ALA., March 4.—(AP)—Circuit Judge Gardner F. Goodwyn ruled today that Isaiah Bush, Negro charged with the slaying of a Bessemer police officer, is insane and ordered that he be committed to an institution.

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Two In State Killed, Policeman Is Held, Negro Youth Jailed

News Birmingham, Ala. Mon 5-13-46

Ex-Marine Shot On Street In Lineville; Muscoda Miner Felled On Farm

Two persons, an Ashland policeman and a 15-year-old Negro youth from Centerville, were being held on murder charges today in connection with fatal shootings in the state over the week-end.

Sheriff V. T. Harris, of Bibb County, announced this morning that Willie Hooper, 15, Negro, had been arrested at West Blocton and has been charged with the murder of Frank James Lightsey, 42, Muscoda miner.

The other shooting victim was Hubert Virgil Morrow, 24, Lineville, who was slain Saturday at Ashland.

Lightsey, employed by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company at its Muscoda iron ore mine at Bessemer, was fatally shot yesterday afternoon on a farm rented by Mr. Lightsey's cousin, John Lightsey, about four and a half miles east of Centerville, in Bibb County.

* * *

MORROW, AN EX-MARINE, was fatally shot late Saturday afternoon in front of a cafe on the main street of Ashland, in Clay County.

Clay County Sheriff Z. P. Jordan said Cecil Williams, 48, night police officer at Lineville, was being held in Clay County Jail charged with first degree murder in the slaying of Morrow. He said the shooting occurred after Williams attempted to take Morrow into custody on charges of "public drunkenness.

James C. Morrow, the victim's brother, swore out the murder warrant, Sheriff Jordan declared.

W. C. Dempsey, Clay County solicitor, said no weapon was found on Morrow, who was discharged from the Marine Corps last November. Solicitor Dempsey said the Morrow youth had spent four years in the service, most of which was overseas. He was engaged in farming with his father, Alexander Morrow, at the time of the shooting, Mr. Dempsey said.

* * *

THE POLICE OFFICER WAS ARRESTED by Sheriff Jordan. A preliminary hearing for Williams probably will be held about the middle of the week, Solicitor Dempsey asserted.

Morrow is survived by his parents and several brothers and sisters.

Sheriff Harris reported that Lightsey was shot in the chest and shoulder by a shotgun charge and died three hours later in a Fairfield hospital.

The sheriff declared that Mr. Lightsey was shot after his cousin had remonstrated with the Negro boy for driving a tractor belonging to the farm renter. The boy fled after the shooting, the sheriff asserted. Bloodhounds were obtained from Tuscaloosa and they were used in the search for the Negro youth. Sheriff Harris said Hooper was arrested at West Blocton this morning. He said the Negro had confessed the killing.

Mr. Lightsey, who lived with a brother, Robert Lightsey, in Bessemer, had been spending the week-end at his home here.

Surviving Mr. Lightsey are the widow, two daughters, Eva Mae and Addie Frances Lightsey, his mother, Mrs. A. R. Lightsey, three brothers and four sisters.

Funeral arrangements will be announced.

Negro Accused In Bibb Slaying Jailed Here

Birmingham, Ala. Ledger News 5-14-46

Charged with murder, a Bibb County Negro youth was being held in Jefferson County jail today for safekeeping after he reportedly confessed the shotgun slaying Sunday of Frank James Lightsey, 42-year-old miner.

The Negro, Joe Hooper, Jr., 17, of near Centerville, was arrested yesterday at West Blocton, where he made his confession, according to Sheriff V. T. Harris, of Bibb County.

The shooting occurred on a farm rented by Mr. Lightsey's cousin, John Lightsey, near Centerville. The slain man was employed at the Muscoda mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company.

The sheriff said Mr. Lightsey was shot after he remonstrated with the Negro for driving a tractor belonging to the farm renter.

Funeral services for Mr. Lightsey were held at Sandy Chapel, near Centerville, today, with burial in the adjoining cemetery.

Mr. Lightsey is survived by his widow; two daughters, Eva Mae and Addie Frances Lightsey; his mother, Mrs. A. R. Lightsey; three brothers and four sisters.

YOUTH IS JAILED IN COUNTY AFTER SLAYING IN BIBB

Sheriff Says Confession Made In Gun Death Of F. J. Lightsey

Birmingham, Ala. age Herald

Joe Hooper, Jr., 17-year-old Negro of near Centerville, yesterday was being held in the Jefferson County Jail here for safekeeping after the youth confessed the fatal shooting of Frank James Lightsey, 42, Bibb County officers asserted.

Sheriff V. T. Harris, of Bibb County, said at Centerville that Mr. Lightsey, who was employed at the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company's Muscoda iron ore mines, was wounded fatally by a shotgun blast Sunday afternoon near Centerville, in Bibb County.

The officer said the shooting occurred on a farm rented by Mr. Lightsey's cousin, John Lightsey, about four miles east of Centerville. Times 5-14-46

The Negro youth was arrested by Deputies J. E. Oglesby and W. E. Pruitt about 6 a.m. yesterday at West Blocton and confessed after being taken into custody, Sheriff Harris said.

Authorities said a first-degree murder charge has been filed against Hooper.

Sheriff Harris said Mr. Lightsey was struck in the chest and shoulder by the shotgun blast and died about three hours later in a Fairfield hospital.

Mr. Lightsey was shot after John Lightsey had remonstrated with the Negro for driving a tractor belonging to the farm renter, the sheriff added.

Frank Lightsey's home is a short distance from the farm on which the shooting occurred. Mr. Lightsey boarded with a brother, Robtrt Lightsey, Bessemer, while working at the Muscoda mines and went home for the week-ends.

Funeral services for Mr. Lightsey will be held at 2:30 p.m. today at Sandy Chapel, near Centerville. Burial will be in a cemetery adjoining the chapel.

Mr. Lightsey is survived by his widow, two daughters, Eva Mae and Addie Frances Lightsey; his mother, Mrs. A. R. Lightsey; three brothers and four sisters.

Negro Confesses In Centerville Shooting

Montgomery Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

CENTERVILLE, ALA., May 13.—(AP)—Sheriff V. T. Harris said Joe Hooper, Jr., 17-year-old Negro, confessed today to the fatal shooting of Frank J. Lightsey, 42, of Bessemer, at a farm near here yesterday.

The sheriff said a murder warrant was issued against the Negro youth, who was transferred to the Jefferson County jail at Birmingham. Times 5-14-46

Lightsey was fatally wounded with a shotgun yesterday at a farm operated by a relative after he had remonstrated with Hooper for driving a tractor, Harris said.

Hooper fled after the shooting and was arrested today at West Blocton, the sheriff said.

Wife Accused of Urging Negro To Slay Spouse

Atlanta Constitution Atlanta Ga. Sat 5-4-46

Constitution State News Service.

PHENIX CITY, Ala., May 3—Accused of conspiring with a Negro to murder her husband, red-haired Mrs. Mary Liza Sorrell, 25, was held without bond Friday in Russell County jail, police reported. In a signed confession the Negro, Joe Harrison Martin, alias Joe Avery, 34, said Mrs. Sorrell began urging him in March, 1946, to kill her husband, Elmer E. Sorrell, and "put him on the railroad."

The Negro, held on a charge of first degree murder, said he had lived in a back room in the Sorrell home since March, 1945, and had known Sorrell all his life and "loved him like a brother, even if he was a white man."

Martin stated that he was ill last Saturday night and that Mrs. Sorrell came back into his room and told him "now is your chance to get rid" of Sorrell. According to Martin's confession, Mrs. Sorrell then told her husband the Negro was "nearly dying" and needed medical attention.

The Negro said he asked to be driven to the home of Dr. McClain in Salem, Ala. Sorrell drove him to the doctor's house, where he received treatment.

LONG ROAD HOME

On the way back, Martin said he suggested that they return by the dirt road to Bleeker.

"It was a long, lonesome road for me, for that was where I planned to do the job, but my nerve failed me," the Negro's confession stated. He said they crossed a railroad track on the way to Phenix City, and that he thought of "putting him on the railroad," but that he still didn't have the nerve.

When they were only a few hundred yards from the Sorrell home on Opelika Rd., Martin said he asked Sorrell to pull over to the roadside, then struck him twice with a large tire tool from the truck, and struck him once again when he fell out onto the ground. Sat. 5-4-46.

Martin's confession stated that he then ran to the Sorrell home and told Mrs. Sorrell what had been done. He stated she told him to go on to bed, then called him to come into her room a short time later, "talking real loud" and asking where he had left 'Mister Elmer.'"

He stated that he sensed she wanted the neighbors to hear, and that he answered that Sorrell had gone off after women, with three other white men.

According to Deputy Sheriff H. Ralph Mathews, Jr., who took Martin's confession, Mrs. Sorrell has denied implication and said she couldn't "tell why the Negro wanted to involve me in it." She is also reported to have charged her late husband with philandering and to have said she "caught him kissing another woman" last Easter.

It is understood that Sorrell, a lumberman, "in his early thirties" carried about $1,200 in life insurance but officials had not yet determined whether or not the policies provide for double indemnity in case of accidental or violent death. Sat. 5-4-46

Martin's confession stated that he had "boarded" with the Sorrell's since March, 1945, doing chores and paying $4 weekly, and that the home had been the scene of repeated quarrels and reconciliations between Sorrell and his wife, who is booked as "Miss Mary Liza Sorrell."

Sorrell's body was discovered by County officers at 1:50 a. m. Monday. Patrolman Jesse Greene reported that the body and the truck's motor were still warm.

Hearing Put Off, Mrs. Sorrell Loses Plea for Bond

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution 6-5-46

PHENIX CITY, Ala., June 4—Recommending a "billion - dollar bond" as being proper in "a case of such horrible magnitude," Deputy Solicitor Arch Ferrell, Tuesday obtained a continuance of the hearing of murder-conspiracy charges against Mrs. Mary Liza Sorrell in the death of her husband, Elmer E. Sorrell.

The red-haired widow, 25, will be held without bail pending the new hearing date, July 2.

Mrs. Sorrell, dressed demurely in a white blouse and black skirt, appeared composed through the brief argument in which her attorney, A. L. Patterson, opposed the states motion for continuance and asked that a "reasonable bond" be set.

Mrs. Sorrell has been held without bail since her arrest May 3 on charges of conspiracy to murder. Also held is a Negro, Joe Harrison Martin, who waived arraignment Tuesday.

Russell County officers Tuesday were investigating a homicide involving placing of the victim's body on the railroad tracks.

A Negro woman and three Negro men were held in a Russell County jail are being held for investigation in connection with the killing of Samuel E. Johns, 62, of Hatchechubbee, Ala. The body of Johns, a night watchman for the Williams Lumber Company, was found on the railroad tracks at Hatchechubbee early Sunday.

Deputy Sheriff Ralph H. Mathews said Johns had apparently been attacked between 1 a. m. and 4 a. m. Sunday, and that the body had been dragged at least 25 feet and placed on the railroad tracks. Officials said the elderly watchman had been beaten about the head and stabbed in the neck and that he died in Columbus City Hospital at 8:30 a. m. Sunday. Wed 11-20-46

Last week Mrs. Mars Liza Sorrell, 25, red-haired wife of Elmer E. Sorrell, was sentenced to 30 years for implication in the bludgeon-slaying of her husband last May. A Negro, Joe Harrison, under sentence of life-imprisonment for the same crime, had testified that he had beaten Sorrell to death with a tire tool after Mrs. Sorrell and three Negro men were held in a Russell County jail are being held for investigation in connection with the killing of Samuel E. Johns, 62, of Hatchechubbee, Ala. The body of Johns, a night watchman for the

3 Arrests Made In Alabama Slaying

Atlanta Constitution

Track Homicide

Constitution State News Service.

PHENIX CITY, Ala., Nov. 19—In a week, Johns, a night watchman for the

For the second time in a

Mrs. Sorrell, Negro, To Face Murder Trial

Constitution State News Service.

PHENIX CITY, Ala., June 3—Mrs. Mary Liza Sorrell, 25, red-haired widow of bludgeon-slain Elmer Sorrell, and Joe Harrison Martin, Negro, who has confessed murdering Sorrell, according to Russell County authorities, will face formal charges before Judge H. E. Randall when the Circuit Court opens at 9:30 a. m. Tuesday.

Mrs. Sorrell, charged with conspiracy to murder, has denied any part in the tire-tool slaying of her husband, a lumberman whose body was found lying beside his truck a few hundred yards from his home on Opelika highway in the early hours of April 29.

Martin, charged with murder, told police he had been a lodger in the Sorrell home for more than a year, and in a written confession obtained by Deputies J. D. Harris and H. Ralph Matthews, Jr., asserted that Mrs. Sorrell had repeatedly urged him to kill her husband and "put him on the railroad tracks."

Negro Helper Slays Farmer In Grand Bay

Assailant Makes Escape After Killing Employer And Wounding Another

GRAND BAY, ALA., Oct. 25.—(AP)—Henry R. Long, 63-year-old druggist and building contractor, was killed by a shotgun blast at a remote homesite near here this afternoon by a Negro helper.

After firing at Long from a distance of about 10 feet, the slayer shot at another Negro helper, who escaped from the scene although seriously wounded in the chest.

Headed by Sheriff's deputies and state highway patrolmen, an armed posse of more than 50 farmers searched nearby swamps until darkness. Bloodhounds arrived at the scene after dark from the state prison farm at Atmore, Ala., but their use in trailing the slayer was postponed until daylight.

The injured Negro, Clinton Hayes, told officers the killer approached Long and fired without saying a word. He identified the assailant as a Negro who had been living about two weeks a short distance from the spot where Long was erecting a home for Clinton Ramsey, a white man.

After he was shot, Hayes ran to the home of Ramsey and the slayer followed him. Ramsey and a white tenant farmer, Elmer Thompson, helped the injured Negro into the house and then went outside, where they saw the assailant approaching. When they called to the armed Negro to "drop that gun," they were answered by another blast from the over-under type shotgun. The charge struck the house and no one was injured. The Negro then turned and walked slowly along a cow path into a swamp.

Race Trouble In Shooting Called False

Wounded Man Says Two Policemen On Scene; Search Is Continued

While the condition of Bernard E. Hood, 26, apparently was unchanged last night, these other developments were reported in the shotgun attack Friday in which Hood was badly wounded and Ervin E. Connell, both officials at the Oak Street Veterans Housing project, was slain.

Charlie Hanson, the Negro sought for firing the blasts, appeared at the project a short time before the two men were shot and, apparently intoxicated, defied Hood's order that he leave the grounds.

Two policemen, summoned to the project when it was feared that Hanson might cause trouble, were on the grounds—though, apparently at a considerable distance from Hood and Connell—when the Negro returned and opened fire.

There was no racial trouble, as had been reported.

These statements were made by Bernard Hood when visited at a hospital here last night by an Advertiser reporter.

Hood said the Negro's reappearance at the project, shotgun in hand, apparently "took everyone by surprise."

T. I. Hood, father of the wounded man, said he did not know whether the policemen went in pursuit. The Negro fled across the grounds, darted through some bushes, and disappeared.

No trace of the fugitive had been found to early this morning but city, county and state officials were extending the search and all nearby towns were provided with Hanson's description.

Bernard Hood's statement follows:

"Hanson had been employed at the project, but I had to let him go about three days before. On Friday, a short time before the shooting, Hanson, who had been drinking, came to the project and cursed me. I told him he had better get off the project and go home. He told me he didn't have to leave. Then we had police officers called to take him away. Two policemen were looking for him at the time I was shot. He (Hanson) must have been about 40 steps away from me when he shot me. We had not had any labor trouble."

Hood's father, who is employed as a day watchman on the project, said the shootings occurred shortly after 4:30 p.m. as the workers were receiving their weekly wages. He said he heard both of the shots, but did not see either of the shootings as he was busy receiving his own pay and watching some of the other men draw their wages.

The day watchman said he had previously seen his son and Hanson talking "quite a distance away." Hood's father said his son was shot first and a few seconds later Connell was shot. Then someone yelled, "Oh, he's shot Mr. Hood!"

"When I turned around," he said, "I saw my son, Bernard, lying on his face on the ground. Frank Graham, Negro night watchman, was talking to Connell when Connell was shot, Graham told me later. I don't know whether anyone chased the killer after the shootings."

Early reports said that the Negro night watchman, who had just gone to work, fired two pistol shots at the fleeing Hanson after the shootings.

Bernard E. Hood has a wife and four children at Decatur. They have been unable to obtain a house to live in here.

E. C. Connell Shot Fatally; Negro Flees

Bernard Hood, Decatur, Seriously Injured By Blast From Same Gun

Attacker Sought

Police Believe Revenge Motive Of Attack At Veteran Housing Site

Montgomerys' second man-hunt within a week was underway last night after E. C. Connell, 30, 517 South Hull St., had been shot to death and Bernard E. Hood, 28, formerly of Decatur, Ala., but lately a Montgomery resident, probably had been critically wounded by a Negro, identified by police as Charlie Hanson, about 30.

The shooting occurred about 4:45 p.m. yesterday at the new veterans' housing project, for Negroes, just north of Fairview Ave. between Oak and Holt Streets where Connell and Hood were employed as labor foreman and general foreman, respectively.

Police Detectives reported that the Negro, formrly a laborer on the project, had been fired only a few days ago and that, as a result of preliminary investigation, they believed his return, armed with a shotgun, was prompted by a desire for revenge.

Whether Connell or Hood discharged him was not immediately learned.

Hood Shot First

According to reports given police, Hanson, approaching from the rear, first shot Hood who was standing about 10 yards from the project pay-office on the Fairview Avenue side. He then was said to have gone to the west side of the building and, seeing Connell about 17 yards ahead, to have opened fire again.

A Negro worker, who was talking to Mr. Connell at the time, caught him as he fell. The Negro, who had a pistol, fire twice at the fleeing Hanson but both shots went wild.

Hanson darted across the project grounds, ran through some bushes, and fled in the direction of Holt Street.

Killed Instantly

Connell was struck in the back and killed instantly while Hood, who received a portion of the charge in the right side and head, was reported last night to be in a critical condition at a local hospital.

Reports, not fully verified last night, said that when Hanson moved in the direction of one of his victims he exclaimed:

"You ain't treating us right!"

From the same source that this information was obtained, it was reported that there had been some difficulties between white and Negro workers at the project and that, several days ago, the workers had been segregated, at least, in part. The white workers were said to have objected to the Negroes working at their side.

Miller Adamant

In an effort to gain the full story, Advertiser reporters and photographers last night approached Chief of Detectives Lewis Miller who refused any cooperation and, who in one instance, elected to ignore questions entirely.

"I don't want newspapermen interfering with witnesses" he said, when a reporter sought to question, first-hand, any of the several persons said to have been near the scene.

Miller also objected to newsmen cruising at the scene of the search.

The sought Negro, it was learned from other sources, is about 27 years old, weighs 192 pounds, is of medium build, and has a scar near the center of his upper lip. When last seen he was wearing a brown cap, red leather coat and khaki shirt and trousers.

A man-hunt was instituted almost immediately after the Negro had fled the scene but, at a late hour last night, he had not been apprehended.

The man-hunt was the second in Montgomery this week.

Tuesday more than 40 city, county and state officers joined in a search for J. D. Marks, 22-year-old Negro, for the beating of Mrs. Cecil M. Perry, 56, in her home overlooking Cramton Bowl.

Marks Indicted

Marks was seized the following day when he went to the home of Samie Thomas, Negro, Wares Ferry Road, to seek a loan to "get to Wetumpka" and the latter notified the police. Thomas received a $150 reward for the tip.

Yesterday a Montgomery County grand jury indicted Marks for assault, with attempt to kill, in connection with the beating of Mrs. Perry. He also was indicted for the theft of a pistol and a pair of boots, allegedly stolen, about a week earlier, from the Perry home.

Mrs. Perry, badly wounded by the blows from a large stick, was taken to a hospital where attendants said, about 76 stitches were taken in the wound. She was reported last night to be improving.

Negro Seized By Irate Posse Admits Killing

Grand Bay Group Takes Man Wanted In Slaying Along With Companion

MOBILE, ALA., Oct. 26.—(AP)—Aroused citizens of nearby Grand Bay apprehended today a Negro man wanted in connection with the shotgun slaying of a 63-year-old Grand Bay white man, then turned their search upon another Negro wanted on a robbery warrant and sent him to a hospital wounded, Sheriff's Deputy J. C. Holcombe reported.

An armed posse of Grand Bay farmers captured George Frazier, 34-year-old Negro, sought in connection with the slaying of Henry R. Long, druggist and building contractor, Holcombe said.

He said that Frazier admitted shooting Long and wounding his Negro helper, Clinton Hayes, about 30, but added "I don't know why I did it." Frazier has been placed in the county jail on a murder charge, the officer said.

Holcombe told this story of the posse which captured Frazier: When Frazier was captured in a swampland near Grand Bay, about 20 miles west of Mobile, he related that another Negro, whom he identified as Sam Davis, wanted on a robbery charge, had encountered him in the swamp and taken his shotgun and several pistol rounds and a shotgun blast at the officers took him to a Mobile hospital, where he will be held until after learning of this. The Negro was found in the hip and shoulder by a posse ondder guard.

Jury Fixes Killing On 2 Defendants

Post

Verdict at Inquest Reached in Less Than Five Minutes; Pair Confessed, Police Say

Two young Negroes yesterday impassively heard a coroner's jury hold them responsible for the fatal shooting April 13 of John Paul Knight, Safeway grocery store clerk.

The two were Alfred L. Hawkins, 22, of 22 Quincy pl. nw. and Lawrence I. Prout, 20, of 4912 Nash st. se. The inquest jury took only five minutes to reach a verdict.

The defendants, who were arrested Saturday night in front of a grocery store at 500 12th st. se., sat silently through the hearing while four employes of the Safeway store identified them. The pair did not take the stand on the advice of their attorney, Kenneth Wood.

Knight was shot as he left the store carrying a bundle of groceries. Two of his fellow employes had already got out the door, a third was ready to leave and a fourth was in the back room when the bandits shot Knight, then entered the store. 5-21-46-Tues

Admits Firing Fatal Shot

Precinct Detective Frank A. Jordan of the Fifth Precinct told the jury that he had questioned Hawkins early Sunday morning. He said the defendant admitted he was in the Safeway Store, 1201 1st st. nw., April 13, and that he had fired the .45 caliber pistol that killed Knight.

"Hawkins said he pulled back the hammer of the gun to put fear in the men, but when he started to put on the safety, he touched the trigger and the gun went off accidentally," Jordan said.

George Keyes, 1511 N. Garfield st., Arlington, relief manager of the store when the shooting occurred, testified that he as about to leave the store when he heard a shot. Washington, D.C.

"I turned around and saw Knight fall. Then I saw this man push his body out of the way and come into the store, saying 'This is a hold-up'," Keyes said. He identified Hawkins as the man holding the gun and said he was forced into a back room by Hawkins, who then forced William C. Davis of 2217 1st st .nw., regular manager, to open the safe.

Got Out Combination

Davis said he was in the back room when Knight was shot, and when he came out to find out what had happened, he was forced into the back room by Hawkins.

"My first attempt to open the safe failed. Then Hawkins said to me 'Buddy, you'd better not miss the next time or I'll blow your damned brains out,' so I got the combination from my wallet," Davis testified.

He said Hawkins made him put the cash, about $794, in a paper bag which Hawkins had thrown on the floor. Prout stuck his head into the back room and urged Hawkins to hurry up, Davis said, adding that after he got out the money both men left with a warning not to call police for 10 minutes.

Prout was also identified by Orville Taylor, 3126 16th st. nw., as the man who forced him back into the store. He testified he saw a gun in Prout's hand. Albert Cronise, 8534 10th st. nw., a meat cutter, identified both Hawkins and Prout as the hold-up men.

Woman Furnished Tip

No mention was made at the inquest of a woman, reported by police several days after wards to have accompanied the holdup men. Police said yesterday that both defendants, who confessed the slaying, said no woman had been with them. 5-21-46-Tues.

The tipster, who suspected the defendants and had a friend call police to the 12th st. store where they were arrested Saturday night, was a woman shopper in the store, police said. Her identity will be kept secret for protection.

According to Maj. Harvey G. Callahan, superintendent of police, she had just left the 12th st. store after making a late purchase when she noticed the two men outside. She saw a suspicious bulge in the left side of the belt of one (later proved to be a gun) and stopped a man on the street about a half block away asking him to call police. Washington, D.C.

Then she returned to the scene and watched the arrest of the pair, Callahan said. She will be eligible for a $1200 reward if the two men are convicted.

Creek to Be Dragged for Gun

Inspector Robert J. Barrett said Navy Men and police will drag a creek in nearby Maryland today in an effort to recover the .45-caliber revolver which Hawkins confessed taking apart and throwing into the water after the shooting.

Mrs. Knight, wife of the slain man, said yesterday she was so happy the suspects had been arrested that she "couldn't help but cry." She is now working as a waitress at the Southern Grill, 612 9th st. nw. She explained that her income, coupled with insurance payments has enabled her and her three boys "to get along all right."

The Safeway Stores, nIc., yesterday sent a telegram to Major Callahan, Inspector Barrett and the entire police force, congratulating them for their work in closing in on the suspects.

Drug Store Killer Hunted In S. Carolina

Post

The search for the trigger-man ispect in the Maurice L. Bernein drug store slaying moved into outh Carolina yesterday. Three. Three members of the special uad which brought the arrest of sse James Patton, confessed 21- -old accomplice of the bandit-r, were in South Carolina last t on a possibility that the slayer fied there. 6-13-46

Reginald J. Wheeler, 26-year-old egro ex-convict, was named in 'atton's confession and testimony o a coroner's jury as the man who shot the 52-year-old druggist in a



REGINALD J. WHEELER
Alleged trigger-man

holdup at Bernstein's store, 1786 Florida ave. nw., the morning of June 5. Washington

Both men were held for grand jury action on charges of murder and robbery by the coroner's jury Tuesday.

Detective Sergts. Walter D. Perry, Nunzio Bonaccorsy and Harold C. Huffman left Washington Tuesday night, but Detective Chief Robert J. Barrett declined to specify the town in which Wheeler is believed to be hiding.

Patton was arrested early Sunday at his home, 1334 Corcoran st. nw., by the four-man squad, which included Detective Sergt. Joseph Hunt. Praise for breaking the case went to the four from Police Supt. Harvey G. Callahan and from the Commissioners. 6-13-46

Patton readily admitted his part in the holdup, but declared it was Wheeler who fired the shot which killed Bernstein as the druggist walked in on Wheeler's efforts to learn whereabouts of the safe from a pharmacist in the store.

Deliberate Murder Charged

Ex-Convict Tells How He Fired Shot That Killed Druggist

Post

Joseph Reginald Wheeler, zoot-suited former convict, yesterday told police how he fired the shot which killed Maurice L. Bernstein, 52-year-old druggist, in a holdup here June 5. Date D.C.

Wheeler, 26-year-old Negro, "had a hunch" his arrest was imminent, but he wearied of hiding in a South Carolina cotton field and went to bed. He was seized there at 5 a. m. Thursday, naked and unarmed, while sleeping at the home of his wife's uncle at Ridge Springs, S. C. 6-15-46

Brought back here yesterday by three members of the four-man special squad which cracked the case in four days, Wheeler readily confessed the Bernstein slaying and admitted seven other robberies.

He told how he cocked the revolver when he saw Bernstein come around the partition in the drug store at 1786 Florida ave. nw.

"But I don't remember when it went off," he said. "I saw him fall to the floor and cough. That was the first I knew I had shot him."

Glib and affable in his conversations with police, Wheeler quavered when he was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Needham C. Turnage yesterday afternoon on a charge of "deliberate and premeditated murder."

"Does that mean I'll be indicted for first degree murder?" he asked. Turnage replied he did not know what the grand jury would do.

Wheeler was named as Bernstein's slayer in the confession of 21-year-old Jesse James Patton, his accomplice, who was arrested Sunday. He told police Patton accompanied him on all seven of the robberies. Washington

Wheeler, in tight-bottomed trousers, a plaid coat with a purple boutonniere and a white handkerchief flowing from his breast pocket, was picked out of a police lineup by Thomas F. Nusbickel, pharmacist at the Bernstein drug store. Two women clerks in the store at the time of the slaying did not positively identify him, however.

Following Nusbickel's identification, Wheeler stepped from the lineup and repeated his confession to the pharmacist.

He told police he had been planning a trip to South Carolina and went home immediately after the shooting, packed and with his 18-year-old wife went to Union Station. They missed an early train and while waiting he read of Bernstein's death in late afternoon papers. 6-15-46-Sat.

He said he got $35 from each of two registers in the drug store, gave Patton $35 and spent $25 for railroad tickets. Patton's confession said he received only $12 for his share.

Police said Wheeler's wife was unaware of his part in the robbery and slaying until his arrest.

His Share: $12

Youth Blames His Hunted Pal For Slaying of D. C. Druggist

Jesse James Patton, a juvenile delinquent on police books, became 21 the day he held a gun on three persons while his companion killed a neighborhood druggist.

For the job he received $12—which he spent celebrating his birthday.

That was the story of the slaying of Maurice L. Bernstein, 52-year-old druggist, as Patton told it to a coroner's jury yesterday. Bernstein, father of three children and a leader in Jewish War Veterans affairs, was shot during a holdup in his store at 1786 Florida ave. nw. June 5.

Patton, one-time Lorton Reformatory inmate, was arrested as a suspect Monday afternoon, was identified by witnesses Monday night and repeated his confession before the coroner's jury yesterday.

His account pinned blame for the actual shooting of Bernstein on another Negro, 26-year-old Reginald Joseph Wheeler, who is being sought along the Eastern seaboard.

It took the jury but five minutes to order Patton and Wheeler to the grand jury.

Patton was an affable witness at the inquest and his questioning of other witnesses was slanted at pinning blame for the shooting on Wheeler. Three of them testified that the calm-voiced youth was near the front of the Bernstein store when the shot which pierced the druggist's heart and lung was fired.

He said his own gun was not loaded and that he did not know a shot was fired or that Bernstein had been killed until he read the newspaper accounts later in the day.

One of the witnesses who identified Patton was 14-year-old Joseph Smith, 1821 S st. nw., who had gone into the Bernstein drug store to order a soda. Asked if he could identify the man who stayed at the front of the store, the boy's eyes swept the room until he spotted Patton. Then he grinned broadly and Patton grinned back. "I think that's the man," the boy said.

Patton's arrest by a four-man special squad assigned to the case by Inspector Robert J. Barrett came without "inside information" or a tip, Barrett said yesterday. The squad, Detective Sergts. Walter Perry, Joseph Hunt, Nunzio Bonaccorsy and Harold Huffman, has been working exclusively on the case.

Nine persons testified at the inquest, among them Thomas F. Nusbickel, pharmacist at the store, who testified Wheeler, not Patton, was the man who approached him at the rear of the store and later fired the shot which killed the druggist.



Post Staff Photo

JESSE JAMES PATTON

Held in slaying

Served at Lorton

The holdup men took a cab from the drug store and separated, Patton said. He added that he had not seen Wheeler since that time.

Police said Patton was released from Lorton in June, 1945, after serving nine months and 20 days of a year-and-a-day sentence on a larceny conviction. His record, they said, also includes three other arrests.

Wheeler was released from Lorton one month after Patton after serving a year on a charge of uttering and forgery. His record also includes three other arrests.

Patton's confession, authorities said, contained an account of the robbery of Taylor's Liquor Store, 300 Massachusetts ave. ne., which yielded $1300 on June 1.

Patton was paid $40 for that one, he said.

Jury Debating Fate Of Negro Navy Cook

The News

KEY WEST, Fla., Nov. 14—(AP)—A Federal District Court jury deliberated the fate today of David Joseph Watson, 22-year-old Negro Navy cook charged with first degree murder in the strangulation death of Benjamin Leroy Hobbs, 19, of Nebo, N. C.

The case went to the jury at 5:15 p.m. yesterday.

Hobbs' body was found July 25 hidden in a gun tub aboard the U. S. S. Stribling where both men were stationed.

Birmingham, Ala

Asst. Dist. Atty. Hayford Enwall asked the death penalty and said Watson was a "perverted person with a depraved mind who committed a brutal murder to satisfy his passion for lust."

Thurs. 11-14-46

Defense Atty. John G. Sawyer contended the government had failed to prove pre-meditation and that Watson was "guilty of no more than second degree murder."

Negro Cook Confesses Slaying On Destroyer

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

KEY WEST, Fla., Aug. 9—(AP)—An intensive, highly secret, two-week manhunt aboard a U. S. destroyer for the slayer of a 19-year-old sailor ended last night with an announcement by the FBI of a confession by a Negro cook who had been in custody 12 days.

On July 25, Benjamin Leroy Hobbs, of Nebo, N. C., was criminally attacked, bludgeoned and slowly strangled near his bunk on the U. S. S. Stribling. Two days later David Joseph Watson, a Negro cook third class, was placed in naval custody.

Fri. 8-9-46

Last night Miami's FBI chief, Joseph E. Thornton, announced that Watson had made a detailed confession of the crime.

Hobbs' death came just five days before he was to have been discharged to help his recently-widowed mother run their small North Carolina farm.

Murder Hammer Believed Found Under Warship

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

8-1-46

KEY WEST, Fla., July 31—(AP) Reports seeping through the Navy's iron ring of official silence Wednesday indicated that an investigating board had linked a cloth-bound hammer found at the bottom of the Key West harbor to the murder last Thursday of Benjamin Leroy Hobbs, 19-year-old sailor, of Nebo, N. C.

Hobbs was stranged to death and his body jammed into a gun turret, but an autopsy showed superficial wounds on his head.

The hammer, found beneath Hobbs' ship, the U. S. Destroyer Stribling, was believed to have been the instrument used to inflict the wounds.

Thurs.

A Negro mess mate was taken into custody by the Navy last Friday. A two-day training cruise of the Stribling, scheduled to begin Wednesday, was cancelled.

The Navy has refused requests of reporters to visit the ship. A separate investigation was conducted by the FBI.

8-1-46

Negro Sought In 2 Attacks Under Arrest

Times Union
Jacksonville, Fla.

Sat. 8-24-46

ORLANDO, Aug. 28. (AP)—Orlando police are holding John Walker, St. Petersburg negro, in connection with the Lawn-Stevens slugging cases here.

Walker was brought from Nashville, Ga., to Orlando yesterday.

The similarity between the Orstand trial in St. Petersburg led which Walker was scheduled to stand trail in St. Petersburg led Pinellas County officers to write Orlando authorities telling of the cases there, and that Walker had escaped from jail in June. Following an alarm by Orlando police broadcast over the Southern States, the negro was arrested in Nashville.

A. R. Lawn, proprietor of an Orange Blossom Trail fruit and vegetable market, was bludgeoned to death July 28, by an assailant who used a piece of iron wrapped in a newspaper.

J. W. Stevens, clerk in a liquor package store just outside the city limits, was slugged August 15. Again a piece of iron wrapped in a newspaper was used as the assault weapon. Stevens was not killed however and is recovering from his head injuries.

Sat 8-24-46

St. Petersburg police said that in one assault case there in which Walker was facing trial, a long bolt wrapped in a newspaper was used as a weapon with which a storekeeper was struck. In another case a whiskey bottle filled with sand and wrapped in a newspaper was carried but discarded at the last minute and a hammer lying nearby was used instead.

Negro Navy Cook Tried In Shipmate's Murder

The News, Birmingham Ala.

Tues. 11-5-46

KEY WEST, Fla., Nov. 5—(AP)—Circumstantial evidence was expected to play an important part in the trial of David Joseph Watson, 21-year-old Negro Navy cook, accused of the murder of Benjamin Leroy Hobbs, 19, a shipmate.

Asst. U. S. District Atty. Hayford O. Enwall, in his interrogation of prospective jurors yesterday, asked if they were conscious of any scruples of voting the death penalty if evidence is in most part circumstantial.

Hobbs, from Nebo, N. C., was killed aboard the U. S. S. Stribling and his body found in a gun tub on the ship last July 25.

16b 1946

Admits Slaying, GBI Reports

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution State News Service.

NASHVILLE, Ga., Oct. 31—A 28-year-old Negro, Albert Parker, of Ray City, confessed Thursday afternoopn in an undisclosed jail to the brutal slaying early last Sunday morning of Marcus Lee, 71, of Ray City, according to W. A. Ross, of the GBI.

His confession absolved Carey Bell, of Ray City, and Collins McQueen, of Willacoochee, of a part in the crime. These two are being held as witnesses. Sat. 11-1-46

The three Negroes were whisked away from Berrien County Jail Sunday night by Georgia State patrolmen when mob violence was threatened.

The body of Lee, brutally beaten in the head with a grubbing hoe, was found in heavy brush on the outskirts of Ray City late Sunday afternoon. He had been robbed of a hundred-dollar bill and his pocket watch.

Farmhand Confesses Killing Pair

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Mon. 11-18-46

Capt. Ben W. Seabrook, head of the Atlanta Police Identification Bureau, has announced that Quiller Daniel, Negro farmhand, taken into custody Friday by Franklin County Sheriff Tom W. Andrews, following discovery of the shot-riddled bodies of Mrs. Marilyn Webb, 35, on whose farm Daniel lived, and Willie A. (Buck) Carnes, has confessed the double slaying.

Daniel, brought to Atlanta Friday for safekeeping after a hastily formed posse had chased Sheriff Andrews and the prisoner out of Royston, was removed to Atlanta's Police Identification Bureau Saturday night for grilling by Capt. Seabrook.

After being closeted with the Negro for about an hour, Capt. Seabrook announced Daniel had agreed to talk, and stenographers were obtained to take down his statement in the presence of a number of witnesses.

In his statement, the Negro claimed self-defense in the slaying of Carnes, and declared he did not know until the following day that he had shot Mrs. Webb.

"About a month ago Mr. Webb and his daughter, Ann, had gone into Royston," Daniel's statement said. "A short time after they left Mr. Carnes came to the Webb home, and about the same time, a strange automobile stopped, and a strange man got out and entered the house. A few moments later I heard loud voices. I was in my house, and peeping out the door. Then I heard several pistol shots.

"Mr. Carnes ran out of the house, got into his car and drove off.

"Then Mrs. Webb and the strange man walked out on the porch. Mrs. Webb was crying, and the stranger was quarreling with her, saying she had mistreated him. Then the strange man got into his car and started to drive off. He headed toward my house, and to keep him from seeing me, I moved, and Mrs. Webb then saw me.

"After he had gone, Mrs. Webb got after me, saying she didn't know I was on the place.

"'And you saw everything and heard everything,' she said.

"She then told me not to say a word about what had happened, and I promised not to.

"The next day she sent me into Royston to see Mr. Carnes and tell him everything was all right, and for him not to say anything about what had happened.

"I delivered this message, and Mr. Carnes told me to keep my mouth shut. I said I would.

"About two weeks ago, Mr. Carnes saw me in Royston and got after me for talking about the shooting. I denied having said a word, but he said it was getting out in Royston. He then told me to meet him that night in some woods near a swamp, saying he wanted to talk to me.

"I didn't go.

"Thursday Mr. Carnes saw me again and got after me for not meeting him and said I better meet him that night out on the road where the bodies were found.

"I didn't want to go, but I knew I had better, so I took my shotgun and left.

"It was nearly 10 o'clock when I got to the place, and there was the Webb car. I walked up to it and asked for Mr. Carnes.

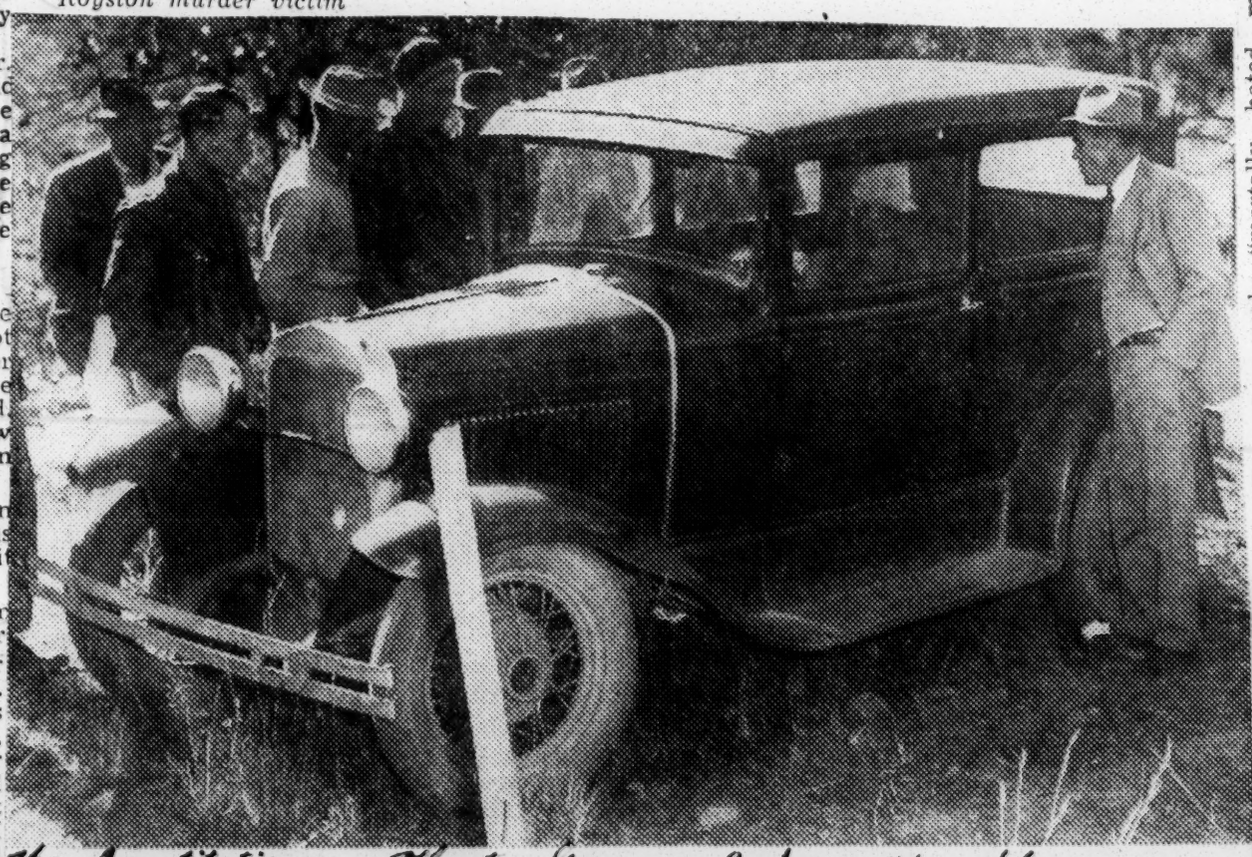
"'Let me out of this car, I am going to kill that Negro,' Mr Carnes said as he opened the door and started to step out of the car. He stuck his hand in his shirt as if he was going to pull a pistol, and I was scared. I shot four times and then ran. I knew I had killed Mr. Carnes, but I did not know I had struck Mrs. Webb. I didn't know she was hurt until the next day when the bodies were discovered."

Daniel then told the officers he took the four empty shells to his home, burned them, and then battered the metal percussion caps and threw them away.

After completing his statement, he was returned to his cell at the Fulton County Tower, where he will remain until the next session of the Franklin Superior Court, Sheriff Andrews said.



W. A. (BUCK) CARNES
Royston murder victim



The Constitution Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 11-16-46

DEATH VEHICLE—Constable Tom Bryant, left of automobile, is shown looking into the rear of the blood-stained vehicle in which W. A. (Buck) Carnes and his companion Mrs. Walker Webb, were discovered slain early yesterday. A Negro listed as Quiller Daniel, a farm hand who worked for the dead woman's husband, was placed in Fulton Tower by State Highway Patrol officials after Franklin and Hart County police discovered a shotgun in his home believed to have been used in the killing.

'It Wasn't Her Fault,' Royston Hubby Sobs

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.
Sat. 11-16-46

By CELESTINE SIBLEY
Constitution Staff Writer.

ROYSTON, Nov. 15—Whatever happened to his blonde, 35-year-old wife leading to her death in the car with another man" was not her fault but something she was forced to," Walter S. Webb, W. A. (Buck) Carnes and Mrs. Walker Webb, were discovered Royston farmer declared Friday, a car on a lonely country road any trouble. Daniels' wife, Fran- since the first grade.

Marilyn Fortson Webb "was a ces, is separated from him, Webb said.

Friday morning.

"We never went to

The Carnes live in a squarish farmhouse in the center of a cotton field. Carnes, besides distributing Atlanta and Andersonville, shows to- Mrs. Webb, a slender blue-eyed usually blonde, was a member of the Roy- ing

S. C., newspapers and driving the school bus, was a farmer. He made nine bales of cotton this year. His widow said he was a native of South Carolina.

Neither the Carnes nor the Webb families knew of the friendship of Carnes and Mrs. Webb. She too had left home to go to the movies.

Besides his widow and daughter, Carnes is survived by two stepsons, Willie Lee Whitfield and Andy Whitfield and two childrer of his own besides Frances, Louise, 19, and Ray, 9.



The Constitution Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 11-16-46
Constitution Staff Photo—Pete Rotor

SLAIN WOMAN'S DAUGHTER AND HUSBAND—Vera Ann Webb, 14-year-old daughter of Mrs. Walker Webb, the woman who, along with W. A. (Buck) Carnes, was found slain in an automobile parked on a lonely road near Royston yesterday, is shown with her father shortly after the two received news of Mrs. Webb's tragic death. Webb said last night whatever happened to his blonde, 35-year-old wife "was not her fault, but something she was forced into."

Double Slaying Suspect Sent Here From Royston

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.
Sat. 11-16-46

By ALBERT RILEY,

ROYSTON, Nov. 15—"I believe we've got the man who did it," said burly Sheriff T. W. Andrews, of Franklin County Friday night, as Royston buzzed with talk of the shotgun slaying of Mrs. Marilyn Webb, 35-year-old blonde farm wife and her middle-aged companion, Willie A. (Buck) Carnes, on a lonely road near here Thursday night.

Negro Held In Shooting Of Prominent Georgians

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

ROYSTON, GA., Nov. 15—(AP)—A man and woman, both middle aged and members of prominent families in this section, were found shot to death on a secluded road near here today. Sergt. H. C. Langston, of the State Highway Patrol, said a Negro man arrested in the case had been taken to Atlanta for safekeeping. Sat. 11-16-46

Sergeant Langston said the Negro was turned over to State patrolmen by Sheriff Carey Carter, of nearby Hart County, when mob violence was threatened. The Negro was taken to Fulton Tower in Atlanta, where the jailer said he was held for the sheriff of Franklin County in which Royston is located. No charges had been placed against the Negro.

New Contession Said To Be Made By Murder Suspect

Daily Worker Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 11-20-46

Quiller Daniel, Hart County farm hand, Tuesday was said to have signed a new confession that he murdered a married white man and his married companion on a lonely road outside Royston city limits last Thursday.

According to Captain Ben W. Seabrook, chief of the Atlanta Police Identification Bureau, Daniel was "insanely jealous" of Mrs Webb and Carnes and admitted trailing them to the murder scene. Daniel admittedly was questioned until 2:30 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Seabrook said Daniel admitted trailing the couple and killing them with a 12-guage shotgun loaded with No. 8 buckshots, but said he fired only after the white man had threatened and advanced on him. Daniel was stated to have said he remained near the parked vehicle until the white man started to drive off, and to have hailed him, whereupon the advance and shooting followed.

Sheriff Andrews said he was referring to a Negro farmhand he named Quiller Daniel, a former tenant who was arrested on suspicion Friday morning following discovery of the bodies of Carnes and Mrs. Webb in a parked automobile just off the Franklin Springs road, two miles southwest of here.

Daniel narrowly escaped mob violence as Sheriff Andrews, Sheriff Carey Carter, of adjoining Hart County, and their deputies whisked him away to State Highway Patrol headquarters in Toccoa. The Negro later was transferred to the Fulton Tower in Atlanta for safekeeping.

Also under arrest for questioning was Daniel's wife, Frances, who has likewise been taken elsewhere for safekeeping. Sheriff Carter said a group of persons tried to take Daniel away from his custody Friday morning and chased his car out of town toward Toccoa. He added, however, that the excitement died down later.

A motive for the murder of Carnes and Mrs. Webb remained a question mark about which there was considerable speculation here Friday. Evidence that the motive was not robbery was seen in the fact Carnes had $71 in his pockets when the bodies were discovered. Rings and a watch on Mrs. Webb's person were not disturbed.

The bodies were found in the front seat of Mrs. Webb's two-door Model A Ford sedan, parked on a side road, by Easter Caldwell, a Negro woman passing from her near-by home on the way to work in the cotton fields. She notified P. J. Shirley, a farmer, at his home a short distance away, and he called investigating officers.

Sheriffs Andrews and Carter said Carnes' body was slumped under the steering wheel, with his left leg sticking out of the open left door as if he might have been trying to get out of the automobile. He had been shot at close range with a shotgun, apparently a 12-gauge, with number eight shot. The charge struck him in the left jaw, coming out on the right side of his face.

Mrs. Webb, whose body was found on the right front seat, was shot twice. Once charge struck her left arm. The other entered under the left shoulder, and came out through her heart. The position of her body indicated she was turning away from the killer, perhaps in a frantic effort to escape. The watch on her arm had stopped at 9:55.

In the rear of the blood-soaked car were bits of the gay red sweater she wore, torn from her body by the force of the blast.

Sheriff Andrews said tracks in the vicinity of the killing indicated the killer had left an automobile on the Franklin Springs Road, climbed a bank, crossed through a cotton field on a hill, and come upon the couple by surprise.

The sheriff said he had information that led him immediately to suspect Quillar Daniel, who lived on the Webb farm, about two and a half miles from the slaying scene, and across the line in Hart County. Andrews said Mr. and Mrs. Webb were very fond of the Negro.

Sat. 11-16-46
The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

Hart County deupties were sent to arrest Daniel and found him at another Negro's home. Deputies Ralph Bagwell and Bill Overcash made Rthe arrest, assisted by Chief of Police RoRy Nelm, of Royston. Bagwell said Daniel made an attempt to run when he saw them, but denied any guilt.

The officers said they found concealed in Daniel's home a 12-gauge shotgun, which Sheriff Andrews said he believed was the slaying weapon. They also found there several number eight shells.. the same type as those fired at Carnes and Mrs. Webb.

GBI experts will examine the gun t odetermine how recently it was fired.

Sheriff Andrews said he had checked Daniel's activities Thursday night and found the Negro had hired taxicabs to drive him around on side roads near RRoyston as if he might have been looking for someone. He was traced until shortly before the hour the murders were believed committed, and wa snext accounted for shortly after 2 a. m. when Webb awoke noted his wife's absence, Rand called to Daniel's nearby house to ask if he had seen or heard thei rcar.

Mrs. Webb was last seen alive by her husband when she left home in their car Thursday night to visit her brother and then go to a movie, the sheriff related. Carnes had also left his home ostensibly to go to a movie, the sheriff said he was told. Although the families of both victims said they knew nothing of the two having kept company before, several Royston people said they had been seen together on occasions.

Sheriff Andrews said Friday night he believed the case is pretty well cleaned up, but he wanted to make further investigation. He said he anticipated no more arrests soon, and is searching for the empty shotgun shells used by the killer. The shells were not found near the scene.

Both victims were well known here. Mrs. Webb is survived by her husband and a 14-year-old daughter. Carnes, a farmer, circulation agent and school bus driver, is survived by his wife and three children.

German Girl Kills Herself Over Yank About to Go Home

10 Louisville, Ky.
Courier Journal

By the Associated Press.

Frankfurt, June 2.—A 19-year-old German girl was found shot to death in the quarters of an American lieutenant at Litzingen on May 30, the U. S. provost marshal's office announced today.

The announcement said she had spent the night at the Litzengen air base with Lt. Robert Hawk, whose home address was not disclosed. Hawk was about to be redeployed to the United States.

It was the third time within a month that a German girl was found dead in the billet of an American officer about to be redeployed.

The girl was fatally wounded by a bullet from a .45-caliber pistol, the standard Army caliber, the announcement said.

Officers in Hawk's quarters told reporters the girl shot herself while Hawk was away. They said Hawk was not in custody.

One of Hawk's fellow officers said the girl was "very much in love with Hawk and killed herself because he was going back to the United States." Army regulations forbid marriage of American military personnel to German citizens.

Soldier Admits Accidental Shooting.

4/9/49

(The provost marshal in Nuernberg said an American Negro soldier had admitted accidentally shooting to death a 19-year-old German girl as they lay in bed in the girl's Nuernberg apartment.

(The provost marshal identified the soldier as Pfc. Arthur Lee Cannell, 21, of Ponyville, Miss.

Ponyville Miss

(Cannell told questioners that as he reached for his jacket, which was near the bed, a pistol in a jacket pocket was discharged accidentally and the bullet struck the girl in the left cheek.)

An American wife in Germany today sharply criticised U. S. officers who take German girls out in public.

In a letter to "B-Bag," the mail column of The Stars and Stripes, the wife complained:

Wash 6/3/46

"If some of the officers who fraternize could only know how we abhor 'rubbing shoulders' with their 'shack jobs' in our local night clubs, they might confine them to their shacks."

"Please, fellas," she wrote, "have a little respect for your American women and your uniform. Things can't be that bad."

In recent months, Army clubs have dropped practically all restrictions on women guests, provided they are escorted by Americans.

GI Confesses He Shot Two

6-1-46 Sat.

Amsterdam News N.Y. N.Y.

FRANKFURT, Germany (ANP)—Army officials here announced last week that Pvt. James C. Devone, of North Carolina, had confessed he fired the bullet which killed two army sergeants in Nuernberg recently. Devone, who is declared to have signed a confession after the bullet was traced to his carbine, said he was firing at a civilian.

Three bullets were fired from his gun, Devone said, the last striking the men riding in a jeep which happened to be passing at the time. The same bullet killed both the soldiers, passing through the body of one and striking the other.

Officers said Devone admitted to drinking heavily before the incident, and to straying from his guard post. No explanation was given as to why he shot at the civilian.

The sergeants, William R. Timmons, 21, of West Haven, Conn. and Paul R. Skelton, 21, of Texas, were riding with three young women at the time of the shooting.

James C. Devone, a Negro soldier, who, it was said, admitted he had strayed from the post where he was standing guard and "had been drinking beer" before firing shots "at a civilian running up the road."

The two soldiers, killed as the jeep in which they were returning from a night club passed through the line of fire, were T/4 Paul R. Ckelton, 21, of McKinney, Tex., and S/Sgt. William R. Timmons, also 21, of West Haven, Conn. The last of the three shots killed Skelton instantly, passed through his body and then lodging in an artery of Timmons, who died shortly after.

Sat 5-18-46

A ballistics expert, Capt. Claude Nichols of Wichita, Kan., was flownto the scene. He traced the rifle, a carbine, to a quartermaster trucking company.

After the list of suspects had been narrowed to five men who had handled the rifle, Devone confessed, according to investigating officers. Imprints of the rifle butt and the place where he had been sitting at the entrance to an air raid shelter were also found.

Devone entered the Army in January, 1941 and was sent on overseas duty after having re-enlisted in January of this year.

U. S. Soldier Admits Firing Fatal Shot

Richmond Times Dispatch
Richmond Va
Sat. 5-18-46

FRANKFURT, GERMANY, May 17—(AP)—Army authorities announced today that an American Negro soldier had confessed he fired a bullet which killed two American sergeants in Nuernberg last Friday, but that he said he was shooting at a civilian.

Officials identified the soldier as Private First Class James C. Devone, 28, of North Carolina, and said he signed a confession after the bullet was traced to his carbine.

Officers said Devone admitted that he had been drinking heavily and had strayed from his guard post.

His statement, they said, declared he had fired three shots "at a civilian going up the road" and that the jeep in which the sergeants were riding "got in the way" of his last bullet. Both men were killed by the same bullet, which passed completely through the body of one and then struck the other.

Bullet Identified

The civilian was not identified and no explanation of why Devone fired at him was given in the brief outline of the soldier's statement released at headquarters of the theater provost marshal.

Devone, serving in the 3,757th Quartermaster Truck Company in the Nuernberg area, came overseas last January.

Sat 5-18-46

Devone, serving in the 3757th the time of the shooting last Friday night, and did not implicate anyone else, officials said. Sergeants William R. Timmons, 21, of West Haven, Conn., and Paul R. Skelton, 21, of McKinney, Texas, were killed while riding in the jeep with another soldier and three young women.

Negro Admits Killing Soldier In Germany

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.
Fri. 10-4-46

FRANKFURT, GERMANY, Oct 3.—(AP)—U. S. Third Army Public Relations Headquarters said tonight Pfc. Donnial LeFlore, a New Orleans Negro, had signed a statement that he shot and killed a white American soldier at the Fuerstenfeldbruck Air Base last night.

The name of the slain soldier was withheld pending notification of relatives.

The announcement said the victim had struck a Negro during an argument involving several soldiers, that someone shouted "shoot him" and one shot was fired, striking him in the back of the head.

N.C. Soldier 'Confesses' Slaying of Sergeants

Atlanta Constitution
Sat. 5-18-46

By OLLIE STEWART
AFRO Foreign Correspondent

BERLIN (By Cable).—Following a 72-hour period of continuous grilling which would have done credit to Hitler's dreaded Gestapo, Pfc. James C. Devone, 28, of Durham, N.C., has reportedly confessed the fatal shooting last Friday night of two white sergeants as they were riding in a jeep at Nuremberg. The Army authorities asserted that Pfc. Devone admitted firing "at a civilian going up the road" and that the sergeants in the jeep "got in the way of the bullet." Both victims, known to have been with Pfc. James Devone, 22-year-old Negro were killed by the same slug. The from Sampson, N. C., who, the shooting, Army authorities said, agents said, has admitted firing the was traced to the North Caro- shot in the dark which killed the linian, after ballistic tests showed two sergeants. June 5-21-46 the fatal bullet came from his The Army's original announcecarbine. ment quoted Devone as saying he was firing at a German civilian and not clarified by the Army report, accidentally hit the Americans nor was the civilian identified when they droye their jeep into his Devone, along with four eyewit- line of fire. June 5-21-46 nesses to the shooting, are being The agents said they were satisheld by Army authorities, pending fied Devone was not aiming at the court-martial hearings. soldiers. One described the shooting as an accident "that would not happen again in a thousand years."



Amsterdam News

German Girls Questioned In Slaying of Soldiers

NUERNBERG, May 21—(AP)—Several frauleins, known to have been fraternizing with Negro GIs, are being held for questioning by U. S. Army authorities investigating the fatal shooting of Sgts. William R. Timmons, of West Haven, Conn., and Paul R. Skelton, of McKinney, Tex.

Army investigators would not explain why the girls were being questioned, but declared that on the night of the shooting one was

HELD IN SLAYING OF GI'S:

Pfc. James C. Devone, Negro soldier from North Caro-lina, is shown after his arrest in connection with the killing of two American soldiers, T/4 Paul R. Skelton, of McKinney, Tex., and S/Sgt. William R. Timmons, of West Haven, Conn., in Nuremberg two weeks ago. According to the provost marshal's office, Devone confessed he had strayed from his post and had been drinking beer before he fired two shots at a "civilian running up the road." The jeep in which Skelton and Timmons were riding passed through the line of fire. Devone was traced through the carbine used in the shooting. N.Y. N.Y. 6-2-46 Sat.

Sentenced Soldier Kills Sergeant, Injures 2 Others

The Courier-Journal 16-WWII
Louisville, Ky. Sun. 12-8-46

Frankfurt, Germany, Dec. 7 (AP)—Third Army headquarters announced today that a U. S. Negro soldier-prisoner, bent on killing his superiors, grabbed a carbine from a guard and fatally shot his top sergeant, wounded two other sergeants, and fired a volley of bullets into the office of his commanding officer.

The dead seargent was identified as James Clinch, Lincoln, Neb.

The defendant, recaptured after being wounded twice while attempting to escape in a commandeered truck, was identified by the provost marshal as Pvt. L. Z. Henderson, San Antonio, Tex.

Sentenced At Mannheim.

The provost marshal said Henderson had just been sentenced by a Mannheim military court to six months' imprisonment for unauthorized use of an Army vehicle.

The Army announcement gave this version of the affray:

Henderson, shouting threats, grabbed the guard's gun and rushed off in search of his first sergeant, a Negro, and his company commander. Finding the first sergeant outside the orderly room of the trucking unit, the defendant killed him with three shots.

Opens Fire On Sergeants.

Henderson then opened fire on two Negro sergeants who tried to block his way into the company commander's office. Both were wounded, although not critically.

The company commander bolted his office door, so Henderson ran outside and began firing wildly into the window. The captain was not hit.

His ammunition nearly expended, Henderson commandeered a truck and crashed through a barrier at the camp exit, firing his remaining shots at guards at the gate.

The guards escaped without injury, and returned 11 shots, wounding Henderson in both shoulders. He was arrested when he stopped for medical attention.

Florida white woman killed by Negro paramour

Los Angeles Examiner, Calif

CHICAGO — George Johnson, alias William Green, calmly confessed last week to shooting his 25-year-old paramour, a white woman from Miami named Betty Johnson, because he "was nuts about the girl" and he guessed he "loved her or something".

Admitting he shot the woman as she sat with two white girl companions and a Negro musician in a hotel lounge, Johnson explained, "I knew I'd have to kill her. That was as good a time as any." Sat. 5-23-46

The woman was identified as a hanger-on at various Southside nightspots. Johnson told police they met about a month ago, registered at a hotel the following night, and lived together as man and wife until she left him approximately a week before the shooting. He said he became desperate after he spent about $40 on her and she failed to keep several dates. He tracked her down and, when she eluded him, made up his mind to kill her.

One of Miss Johnson's companions on the night of the shooting, told police the victim married her father's Negro chauffeur in Miami and that the couple were forced to leave there about six months ago. She said Miss Johnson had professed love for only one man, her husband, "Talton", who left her and went to New Orleans where their three-year-old daughter lived with his mother.

Police have also found a record of Miss Johnson previously living with Leroy Martin, also Negro, now under indictment by the federal government.



Quarry Joseph Luther Woolridge, 29, laborer, confesses to the murders of Russell Koontz, 43, former Sunday School superintendent, and his sweetheart, pretty Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, 33, a choir singer. Their bodies were found Friday in an abandoned stone quarry near Bloomington, Ind.

Hunt Motive in Slaying of Choir Singer, Lover

C.N. New York N.Y.

Bloomington, Ind., police have arrested two Negro brothers for questioning in the slaying of a pretty choir singer and her handsome lover, an ex-Sunday school superintendent. The victims, both married, were found beaten and gagged early Saturday in the sludge of a 10-foot pit in an abandoned mill.

Mon 3-4-46

The brothers booked for questioning were held as the result of a minor auto accident north of Bloomington. They are Cy and Joseph Woolridge, 31 and 29 respectively. Their car went off the highway and police said that one of them wore heavy boots. Investigators are checking to determine if the boots match footprints left in the mud outside the mill where the bodies were found. The brothers are being held in jail pending further questioning and investigation.

The murder victims were Russell Koontz, 43, prosperous general manager of a stone quary and a church choir leader, and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, 33, stenographer. They had sung together in the choir of a little farm community church, and had created a scandal by their love trysts.

Police disclosed that Mrs. Coleman's mother only two weeks ago wrote her a letter cautioning her to avoid any entanglement which would lead to a tragedy similar to the fate of the girl victim of a double-slayin three weeks ago.

"We have had a terrible murder here in Coffeyville," the letter was quoted in part.

"A man and a woman have been murdered in a tourist cabin. I hope you take warning. Tear up this letter and scatter it to the winds."

The letter was found in Mrs. Coleman's purse.

Bloomington authorities admitted they were without a motive in the slayings of Mrs. Coleman and Koontz, but were pointing their efforts to investigation of the couple's affair.

Mon 3-4-46

Mrs. Coleman had been strangled with a rope or wire. Koontz had died from a blow on the back of the head. Both had been bound and gagged before death. Koontz was found with Mrs. Coleman's slip stuffed into his mouth.

Negro Admits Slaying Two

Montgomery Advertiser Alabama

Handyman Tells How He Battled With Victim In Abandoned Pit

Tues 3-5-46

BLOOMINGTON, IND., March 4—(AP)—Joseph Luther Woolridge, Chunky, 29-year-old Negro handyman in a Bloomington cafe, was charged with first degree murder today in the death of Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, whose body, with that of Russell E. Koontz, was found in an abandoned stone mill last Friday.

The charge was filed by Coroner Ray Borland soon after Sheriff Albert H. Skirvin and state police had made public a confession which they said Woolridge had signed at state police headquarters in Indianapolis. Woolridge said in the confession he killed Koontz as the latter lunged at him.

The statement, as given out by the officers, contained complete details of the double slaying of Koontz, 43-year-old general manager of the Empire Stone Company of Bloomington, and 32-year-old Mrs. Coleman, chestnut haired office employe in a local creamery. Both were married and both were associated with the choir of the Clear Creek Christian Church, where Koontz resigned as Sunday School superintendent recently.

Woolridge related that he stopped in the old mill while groundhog hunting last Friday afternoon and came upon Koontz and Mrs. Coleman in a compromising position.

Woolridge said that as he stood watching the couple, Koontz noticed him and told him to "scram", but he remained.

"I stood on the spot for a short time and the man asked me if I knew him," Woolridge's statement read. "I told him that I did. This man then said that I would never tell it."

Woolridge said that as he stood in the doorway, the man lunged at him.

"I ducked and at the same time I picked up a window sash weight and swung at the man and hit the man on the back of the head as he went past me," the statement continued.

The Negro's statement said the blow knocked Koontz out and that he left the man on the floor and tied up the woman. He said, the woman did not resist.

He returned to Koontz, he said, and found that he was dead.

"At this point I was scared and didn't know what to do," the statement went on. "I walked all around on the inside of the building and finally decided that since the man was dead I would have to also dispose of the woman because she was a witness to the fight."

Tues 3-5-46

The Negro told of placing a rope around the woman's neck and choking her to death.

He dumped both bodies in a water-filled pit in the center of the mill, attempted to cover them with planks and then went home, the statement said.



Richmond Va.
Joseph L. Woolridge
'Repudiates' Confession

Times Dispatch

Accused Man Alters Story On Murders

Wed 3-6-46

INDIANAPOLIS, March 5—(UP)—The attorney for Joseph Woolridge said today that the Negro handyman has "virtually repudiated" his confession to the Bloomington, Ind., stone quarry murders.

Lawrence Shaw, Indianapolis attorney, asserted that in his opinion the murder charges "are completely unfounded."

Authorities said yesterday Woolridge signed a statement admitting the slaying of Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, 33, and Russell Koontz, 43, Bloomington's "church choir sweethearts."

Wed 3-6-46

Shaw claimed that the story Woolridge told him "doesn't even begin to resemble the confession as released."

The attorney said Woolridge, a convicted sexual offender now being held at the State Reformatory at Plainfield, "denies murder in any form."

Story Isn't the Same.

Wed 3-6-46

"The story he told me doesn't even begin to resemble the purported confession as released by officials," Shaw said. "I do not



SLAIN IN OLD MILL—Mrs. Phyllis Coleman (above), a creamery office worker in Bloomington, Ind., was slain last week in an old mill near here, while in the company of Russell Koontz, a business man. A Negro has confessed the double slaying after discovering the couple in an embrace. (Copyright 1946 by The Indianapolis News-Associated Press wirephoto.)

Confession Virtually Repudiated By Woolridge, Attorney Claims

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Indianapolis, March 5.—Lawrence Shaw, Indianapolis attorney, said tonight his client, Joseph Luther Woolridge, virtually had repudiated a "purported confession" of the slaying of Russell Koontz and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, Friday.

State police and Monroe County officials released a statement signed by him in which he admitted clubbing Koontz and Mrs. Coleman.

But he did point out that Woolridge was hunting ground hogs

Defendant Plans Not-Guilty Plea

with a rifle on the afternoon Koontz and Mrs. Coleman were slain in an abandoned stone mill.

The confession ascribed by officials to the prisoner quoted Woolridge as saying Koontz lunged at him and he (Woolridge) picked up an iron window weight and struck Koontz on the head. "What would you have done if someone attacked you while you had a gun?" Shaw asked. "Would you have looked around for a sash weight?"

The lawyer put his finger on a point that puzzled some of the newspaper correspondents who covered the investigation of the slaying.

Will Plead Not Guilty.

Officials established by questioning of Peter Hamm, another hunter from Bloomington, that Woolridge was hunting with a rifle near the abandoned stone mill. But no explanation was contained in the text of the confession as to why Woolridge picked up a sash weight for a weapon instead of shooting Koontz or clubbing him with the rifle.

The confession signed by Woolridge said he strangled Mrs. Coleman because she witnessed the fight in which he killed Koontz.

Shaw said Woolridge would plead not guilty to any charges of murder placed against him. Shaw added: "The law of the State of Indiana says that any time a person is attacked and his life is in danger, or he believes his life is in danger, he has the right to defend himself by taking the life of another in self-defense." The confession signed by Woolridge said he discovered Koontz and Mrs. Coleman in an embrace inside the old stone mill and that Koontz attacked when he failed to obey the man's order that he "scram."

'Deal' Rumor Denied.

At Bloomington Prosecutor Robert McCrea said there was no basis for rumors that consideration had been given a "deal" whereby Woolridge would plead guilty to first-degree murder in exchange for a sentence of life imprisonment.

McCrea said he wanted the Monroe County Grand Jury to make a complete investigation of the case. Judge Q. Austin East has called the grand jury for tomorrow morning.

McCrea said Dr. Ray Borland, coroner, would be the first witness. Estimates were that the grand jury would examine a total of 20 to 30 persons.

Wed 3-6-46

Pastors Sign Resolution.

Rumors a "deal" was being weighed in connection with the case were based on belief by those who discussed them that community opinion favored a quick end to the legal phase of the affair in order to avoid a lengthy retelling of the matters involved.

Nine Bloomington church pastors signed a resolution urging that the involvment of one Negro here in a crime of violence not be construed by the public as a reflection upon the other members of his race in the community.

Man Charged With Murder Of 2 in Mill

Washington Post
Washington, D.C.

Bloomington, Ind., March 4 (AP) Joseph Luther Woolridge, chunky 29-year-old handyman in a Bloomington cafe, was charged with first degree murder today in the death of Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, whose body, with that of Russell E. Koontz, was found in an abandoned stone mill last Friday.

The charge was filed soon after State police had made public a confession which they said Woolridge had signed. Woolridge said in the confession he killed Koontz as the latter lunged at him.

The statement, as given out by the officers, contained complete details of the double slaying of Koontz, 43-year-old general manager of the Empire Stone Co. of Bloomington, and 32-year-old Mrs. Coleman, chestnut haired office employe in a local creamery. Both were married and both were associated with the choir of the Clear Creek Christian Church, where Koontz resigned as Sunday School superintendent recently.

Tues 3-5-46

Found Them in Mill

Woolridge related that he stopped in the old mill while groundhog hunting last Friday afternoon and came upon Koontz and Mrs. Coleman in a compromising position.

Woolridge said that as he stood watching the couple, Koontz noticed him and told him to "scram," but he remained.

"I stood on the spot for a short time and the man asked me if I knew him," Woolridge's statement read. "I told him that I did. This man then said that I would never tell it."

Woolridge said that as he stood in the doorway, the man lunged at him.

"I ducked and at the same time I picked up a window sash weight and swung at the man and hit the man on the back of the head as he went past me," the statement continued.

The statement said the blow knocked Koontz out and that he left the man on the floor and tied up the woman. He said the woman did not resist.

He returned to Koontz, he said, and found that he was dead.

Tues 3-5-46

Decided to Kill Woman

"At this point I was scared and didn't know what to do," the statement went on. "I walked all around on the inside of the building and finally decided that since the man was dead I would have to also dispose of the woman because she was a witness to the fight."

The Negro told of placing a rope around the woman's neck and choking her to death.

He dumped both bodies in a water-filled pit in the center of the mill, attempted to cover them with planks and then went home, the statement said.

FBI agents said Woolridge's record showed six arrests and two convictions, one on a larceny charge, the other on a public indecency charge.

CONFESSES SLAYING OF COUPLE IN MILL

New York Times

Handyman in Indiana Cafe Charged With Murder—He Pleads Self-Defense

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., March 4 (AP)—Joseph L. Woolridge, 29 years old, a handyman in a Bloomington cafe, was charged with first-degree murder today in the death of Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, whose body, with that of Russell E. Koontz, was found in an abandoned stone mill last Friday.

Tue. 3-5-46

The charge was filed by Coroner Borland after Sheriff Skirvin and State police had made public a confession which they said Woolridge had signed at police headquarters in Indianapolis. Woolridge said in the confession he killed Koontz as the latter lunged at him.

Tue. 3-5-46

The statement, as given out by the officers, contained complete details of the double slaying of Koontz, 43-year-old general manager of the Empire Stone Company of Bloomington, and 32-year-old Mrs. Coleman, office employe in a local creamery. Both were married and both were associated with the choir of the Clear Creek Christian Church, where Koontz resigned as Sunday school superintendent recently.

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Tue. 3-5-46

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Tues. 3-5-46

He dumped both bodies in a water-filled pit in the center of the mill, attemped to cover them with planks and then went home, the statement said.

FBI agents at Indianapolis said Woolridge's record showed six arrests and two convictions, one was on a larceny charge that brought him a sentence of sixteen months. The other was on a public indecency charge that resulted in a two-month jail term.

See Lynch Frame-Up In Tryst Double Slaying

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Sat. 3-16-46

Special to the Daily Worker

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 15.—The slaying of two married lovers at an illicit tryst, a confession that has already been denied and lurid newspaper stories are the ingredients of a new anti-Negro frameup in this state.

On March 1 Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, 33-year-old creamery worker, and Russell E. Koontz, business leader and prominent churchman of Bloomington, Ind., were found murdered in a stone quarry mill. Koontz and Mrs. Coleman, both of whom were married, had been having an affair since last summer.

After two days of floundering, local police arrested Joseph Luther Woolridge, 29, a Negro janitor. The evidence against Woolridge consisted of two alleged facts.

Fact number one: Boot prints of the type Woolridge was wearing were found near the scene of the crime. Despite discrepancies in the print marks the prosecutor, Robert McCrea, declared that he was satisfied that they were made by Woolridge's boots.

Fact number two is that Woolridge admits having been in the vicinity of the quarry somewhere about the time of the murder.

DUBIOUS CONFESSION

The next big item in the police case is Woolridge's confession. According to Lawrence Shaw, his attorney, and Ernest May, a lifelong friend, Woolridge declared that he never knew that he signed a confession.

Sat. 3-16-46

The confession is open to doubt on other counts. Woolridge never finished the seventh grade in elementary school. The style of the confession would indicate that whoever wrote it had at least some college education.

Here is a section of the alleged confession:

Sat. 3-16-46

"At this point I became scared and didn't know what to do. I walked all around and finally decided that since the man was dead I would also have to dispose of the woman, because she was a witness."

Readers of detective fiction will recognize the style.

PREVIOUS FRAMEUP TRY

The press, which has been whipping up anti-Negro feeling, reported that Woolridge had previously been convicted of sodomy. This is an outright lie.

Shaw declared that the prosecutor was unable to produce even the shred of a motive for the crime. There "was no robbery or rape" committed, he said.

NATIONAL ROUNDUP

"Every democratic individual should lend a hand in aiding Woolridge," Shaw stated.

A broad defense committee is being set up to raise funds and work for Wooldrge's acquittal. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has opened an investigation into the case.

Denies Slaying In 'Love Nest' Pair

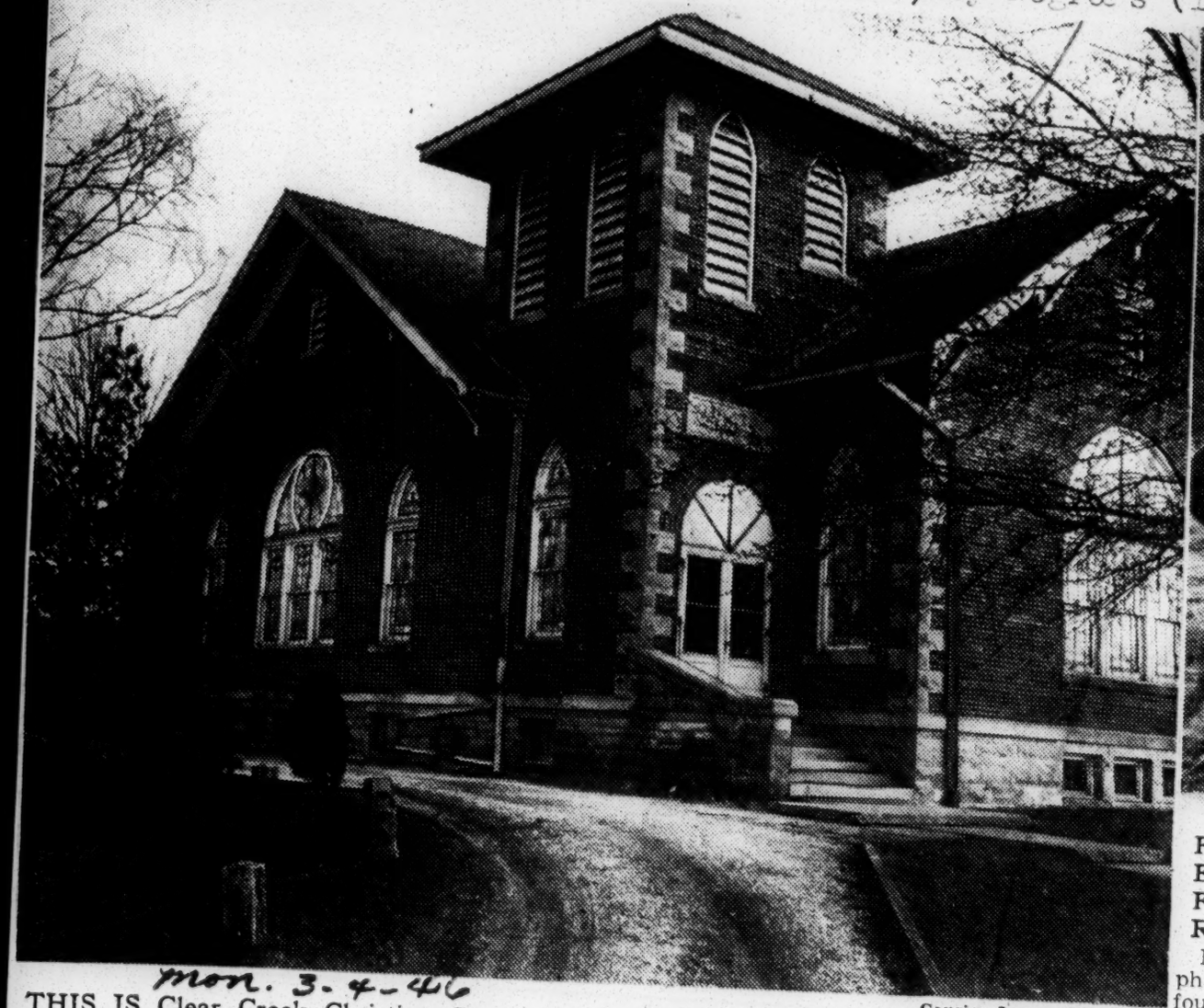
Chicago Defender, Ill.

3-16-46

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—The "love-nest" slaying of a white bus-

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (Ind.)



Courier-Journal Photo.

THIS IS Clear Creek Christian Church where Russell Koontz, choir leader, and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, member, began the association which ended with their murder Friday at an abandoned mill near Bloomington, Ind. They will be buried in the church cemetery.

mon. 3-4-46

2 Brothers Held As Suspects In Slaying of Couple

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

Rubber Boots May Provide Break In Case

mon. 3-4-46

By A. BROWN RANSDELL.
Staff Correspondent, The Courier-Journal

Bloomington, Ind., March 3.—Investigators were questioning two suspects late today in what promised to be the hottest lead developed in the intensive search for the slayers of Russell Koontz, tall, handsome, church choir director and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, attractive choir member and Koontz' companion in a clandestine romance which authorities said had existed since last summer.

Held for grilling by sheriff's office and State police investigators at the County jail were Cy Woolrige, 31, and his brother, Joseph Woolrige, 29, Negroes, both of Bloomington.

Admits Being In Vicinity.

Joseph Woolrige has admitted he was within a few hundred yards Friday of the old stone mill where the bodies were found, Prosecutor Robert McCrea said.

The suspect said he was hunting birds and groundhogs in the vicinity about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The coroner has estimated Koontz and Mrs. Coleman were murdered around noon Friday. Joseph Woolrige told investigators he worked at a Bloomington restaurant, where he is employed as janitor, until noon Friday.

mon. 3-4-46

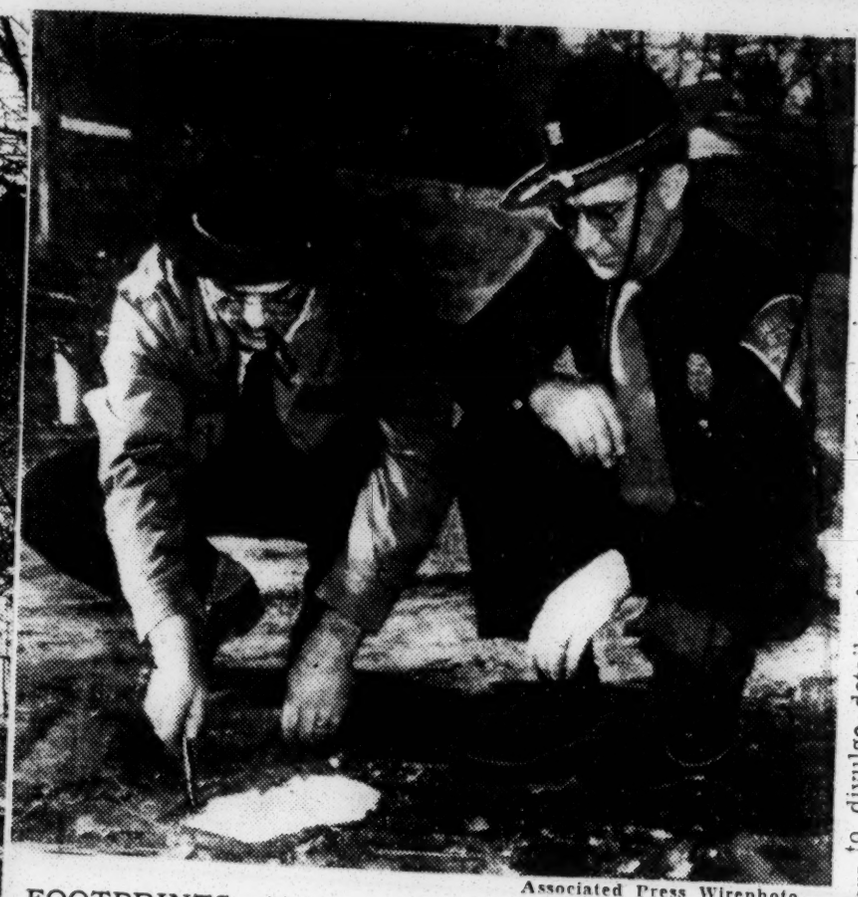
Cy Woolrige told investigators he was in Indianapolis Friday, visiting a sister and other relatives. His story is being checked for verification in Indianapolis.

Rubber Boots Found.

Sheriff Albert H. Skirvin and Lt. Eugene St. John of the State police said a pair of rubber boots of the same type as the boots which left prints in the mud near an abandoned stone mill, where the bodies of Koontz and Mrs. Coleman were discovered, had been found in the suspects' possession.

In addition to this official report, there were unofficial rumors that the officials had recovered a crude bludgeon showing stains possibly caused by blood, some light rope and a woman's garment of undisclosed type from a truck which had been driven yesterday by the Woolrige brothers.

mon-3-4-46



Associated Press Wirephoto.

FOOTPRINTS which may figure in the slaying of Russell E. Koontz and Mrs. Coleman near Bloomington, Ind., on Friday are cast in plaster of paris by State Trooper Hal Rayborn, assisted by Russell Smith, farmer.

Both Skirvin and St. John emphasized that while the boots found in possession of the suspects were similar to those which made the prints near the mill, a test had not been completed to prove the boots were the same. However, the investigators said casts were made from the boot prints at the mill and a test would show whether the Woolrige boots were the ones sought.

Coleman Absolved.

A second important development was the disclosure by Skirvin that an official check had been made on the account given by Kenneth Coleman, 35, husband of the murdered woman, of his activities Friday, the day Koontz and Mrs. Coleman were brutally slain, and that Coleman's story proved true at every point.

Koontz, 42, a stone-company executive here, and Mrs. Coleman, 32, Bloomington creamery employee, both were married and both were childless. They last were seen alive here shortly before noon Friday, but not together.

Their bodies were found in the slime and water of a sludge pit at the abandoned Hunter stone mill, about five miles northwest of Bloomington shortly after 9 o'clock Friday night. Koontz' head had been crushed with blows from a heavy club and Mrs. Coleman had been strangled with a wire or heavy cord.

Victims Bound Tightly.

Marks on their wrists and ankles showed both victims had been bound tightly. But the bindings and the material used to strangle Mrs. Coleman had been removed before the murderer or murderers tossed the bodies of the victims into the sludge pit. In addition an intensive search failed to reveal at the stone mill any trace of the bludgeon used to kill Koontz.

mon-3-4-46

In Koontz' car, which was parked and locked near the mill, was Mrs. Coleman's hangbag. This bag contained, Robert McCrea, prosecution attorney revealed, a packet of what he termed "mushy love letters" written by Koontz to Mrs. Coleman.

A further investigation disclosed, McCrea said, that Koontz and Mrs. Coleman had been principals in an illicit love affair since last summer.

Resigned Because of Talk.

Koontz was choir director for Christian Church at Clear Creek, a small community about four miles south of Bloomington. He formerly was Sunday-school superintendent at the church, but resigned that post as a result of talk in the community about his association with Mrs. Coleman.

Coleman told investigators yesterday he was unaware of any affair between his wife and Koontz.

The choirmaster and his pupil carried on their illicit romance with considerable discreetness, to divulge details of their conthe soft shoulder and back on the pavement. A number of prints from rubber boots were made in the mud at the scene of the accident, this source said.

Noble Siscoe, deputy sheriff, and Hal Rayburn, State patrolman, made an immediate investigation at the scene of the accident, where they established the boot prints there were from the same-type boots as found near the stone mill.

Will Check Movements.

3-4-46

tents. The Woolrige brothers were picked up at their home in Bloomington shortly before noon Friday, on the fact both Koontz had as a result of a tip relayed to spouses the investigators from an undisclosed source.

This tip reported two men ran their automobile off the road between Bloomington and Beanblossom yesterday afternoon and considerable difficulty getting the machine out of

y Borland holds the slain
nged by
so far has refused

opinion that the lovers kept their romantic daytime. This was

d Mrs. Koontz
gators their
from home only in-
night.

ed.

Koontz and Mrs. Coleman rented
personal mail boxes at the Bloom-
ington Post Office and exchanged
ove letters by this means.

Met At Post Office.

The sheriff revealed for the
irst time that investigators had
stablished that Koontz received
ndearing letters from Mrs. Cole-

chances to be together, he said.

Skirvin said it had been es-

contained in the missives were
references to the joy of past
meetings and hopes for future

Tip Received.

Coroner Ray Bo
letters exchanged
times at the Post Office. He ex-
couple and so fa

Janitor Confesses Indiana Slayings

Says He Wandered Into Mill And Was Attacked By Koontz

By A. BROWN RANSDELL.
Staff Correspondent, The Courier-Journal.

Bloomington, Ind., March 4.—Joseph Luther Woolridge, 29, Bloomington Negro, confessed today he killed Russell Koontz, with an iron window weight and strangled Mrs. Phyllis Coleman with a piece of rope sometime after 3 p.m. last Friday.

Woolridge said he surprised the couple in an embrace on the floor of a tool shed in the abandoned Hunter Stone Finishing Mill. The mill, a large ramshackle building, is located in a desolate area of woods and hills about five miles northwest of here.

He had been hunting ground-hogs in the vicinity, Woolridge said, and wandered into the old mill.



CONFESSION he slew Russell Koontz and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman is shown being signed by Joseph L. Woolridge, seated, as Sheriff Albert Skirvin, seated right; Patrolman Hal Rayborn, standing left, and other authorities look on. Associated Press Wirephoto.

Told to 'Scram.'

While he was watching the couple, Woolridge said, the man looked up, saw him, and "told me to 'scram.'

"I stood on the spot for a short time and the man asked me if I knew him. I told him that I did.

"This man then said that I would never tell it.

"At this point I was standing in the doorway leading to this small room and the man lunged at me. I ducked and at the same time I picked up a window sash weight and swung at the man and hit the man on the back of the head when he went past me."

He then dragged Koontz to an adjoining room and returned and bound Mrs. Coleman at her wrists and ankles, Woolridge's confession, made at State Police Headquarters in Indianapolis, said. The suspect had been taken to Indianapolis for a lie detector test.

'I Was Scared.'

His next step was to bind Koontz, Woolridge said, and when this was completed he felt the man's heart and discovered he was dead.

"At this point I was scared and didn't know what to do." The confession continued: "I walked around on the inside of the building and finally decided that since the man was dead I would also have to dispose of the woman, because she was a witness to the fight.

"I found a piece of rope laying on the floor of the building and it was at this time I decided that I would choke the woman to death."

Woolridge said he held the rope about the woman's neck until she quit breathing, a period he estimated at from 5 to 10 minutes.

Seeking to conceal the bodies of his victims, he said, he removed the bonds from their hands and feet and rolled first the man and then the woman into a sludge pit, partly filled with slime and water, and tossed some boards in on top of them.

Taken to Pendleton.

After his confession Woolridge was taken to the State Reformatory at Pendleton as a precaution, officials here explained against possible mob violence.

A charge of first-degree murder, based on the strangling of Mrs. Coleman and contained in a warrant signed by Dr. Ray Borland, coroner, was filed against Woolridge in Monroe Circuit Court.

Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCrea said the case would be given to the grand jury for investigation Wednesday morning, as court is in session here at this time.

Cy Woolridge, 31, who was picked up with his brother, Joseph, shortly before noon yesterday, was released early today on orders from Sheriff Albert H. Skirvin after investigators confirmed his story he was visiting in Indianapolis Friday.

Rubber Boots Were Clew.

The clew which originally tied Joseph Woolridge to the case, investigators said, was the fact rubber boots he owned fit plaster casts made from boot prints found in the mud at the stone mill.

The 'Stone Mill Murders' created a nation-wide sensation not only because of the apparent brutality of the crimes but by revealing publicly that Koontz, 42, and Mrs. Coleman, 32, both members of the choir of the Clear Creek Christian Church and both married, were engaged in a clandestine romance, which, investigators said they found, had continued since last summer.

Revealed also in the course of the investigation was the existence of love letters, described as "mushy" and filled with endearing terms, exchanged by Koontz and Mrs. Coleman.

Coroner Keeps Letters.

Mentioned in these letters, according to McCrea, were the names of some well-known persons in the community.

McCrea said these persons were mentioned only incidentally and they had no connection with the affair between Koontz and Mrs. Coleman or their violent deaths.

Coroner Borland holds the letters and McCrea said there is small probability their contents will ever be officially released to the public.

The "Stone Mill Murder Mystery" opened with a 12-hour suppression of news the bodies of the lovers had been found in the mill pit.

'Covering-Up' Denied.

Lt. Eugene St. John, who directed the State police investigation, said then the news suppression was ordered by Sheriff Skirvin. The sheriff, in turn, said he merely carried out orders given by Coroner Borland Friday night that nothing was to be released until 9 a.m. Saturday. Meantime there had been the customary "leak." Borland, the ranking County peace officer, has steadfastly refused to discuss the case with newspaper representatives. St. John declined today to discuss officially the censorship on the crime.

Borland's refusal to discuss the case, coupled with his possession of the Koontz-Coleman love letters, brought angry charges from many out-of-town newspaper reporters that the coroner was "covering up" prominent Bloomington persons whose names appeared in the letters. Local officials denied there was any foundation for such reports.

The case ended on a high note of confusion.

Camera Is Smashed.

First, State police in Indianapolis released to the press there the contents of Woolridge's confession long before anything other than Skirvin's version of what Woolridge said was released here, even though the local officials had a text of the confession.

Then Opal Koontz, a brother of the slain man, smashed the camera of a Chicago Tribune photographer outside the Clear Creek Church after funeral services there for the choir director and former Sunday-school superintendent of the church.

Deputy Sheriff Noble Siscoe was based on reports he had heard that members of the photographer, as they wrestled warrants charging the photographer with disorderly conduct.

Photographer Leaves Town.

Later McCrea said he believed a good idea for the sentatives he was especially eager picture. McCrea said his opinion

A vigorous search led to the Woolrige brothers' home and the pair of rubber boots in their possession.

Sheriff Skirvin said the brothers first would be questioned to obtain a complete record of their version of where they were and what they did Friday, the day of the murders at the stone mill. Then investigators will follow the same routine used in checking Coleman's story, that of questioning every person mentioned by the Woolriges in their account of their whereabouts Friday.

It will depend somewhat on how much ground it is necessary to cover to check the Woolriges' story as to how long it will take to complete that phase of the examination, Skirvin said.

The customary Sunday morning services were held at Clear Creek Christian Church, the regular congregation being augmented by the presence of more than half a score of newspaper reporters—men and women—who rushed here from as far as Chicago and New York.

Organized In 1847.

The congregation was organized 99 years ago—in 1847—and the present building, shaded by tall sycamores and budding maples, is the result of an addition in 1916 to an earlier brick building.

At present Clear Creek Church is without a regular minister and the sermon this morning was preached by a supply minister, Gerald B. Krueger, a student in the religious school at Butler University in Indianapolis.

The Scripture reading was from the 18th chapter of the gospel of St. John, covering Pilate's examination of Jesus. It included the Roman Governor's oft quoted question after he had been baffled by Christ's answers: "What is truth?"

The minister said after the services that he came to the church without any detailed knowledge of the violent deaths of the two leading members of the choir. Six women and five men sang in the choir, opening the service with "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," in which they were joined by the congregation.

Choir Practice Canceled.

After the services members of the church lingered only briefly in the warm spring sunshine outside and the conversation in the small groups of people did not touch noticeably on the fate of Koontz and Mrs. Coleman.

The church is located on a gentle slope across a County road from the murmuring waters of Clear Creek. Adjoining is the church cemetery where Koontz will be buried tomorrow and Mrs. Coleman on Tuesday. They will sleep among the graves of three generations of members of the congregation of Clear Creek Christian Church.

Lee Mather, president of the church board, reported during the announcement period of the morning service that the adult choir practice scheduled for Wednesday evening of this week had been canceled.

16b 1946 Whites, b; Negroes (Ind.)

Two Held in Choir-Mate Slaying; Mother Warned Pretty Daughter

Atlanta Constitution, Ga. Monday

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., March 3. (UP)—Police arrested two Negro brothers Sunday for questioning in the slaying of a pretty choir singer and her handsome paramour, an ex-Sunday school superintendent.

Simultaneously it was disclosed that the girl's mother only two weeks ago wrote her a letter of warning.

The victims, both married, were found beaten and gagged early Saturday in the sludge of a 10-foot pit in the eerie atmosphere of an abandoned mill. 3-4-46

They were Russell Koontz, 43, well-built, prosperous general manager of the Empire Stone Quarry and a church choir leader, and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, 33, stenographer for a creamery. They had sung together in the choir of a little farm community church south of here and had created a scandal by their love trysts.

The brothers held are Cy Woolridge, 31, and Joseph Woolridge, 29. They were "booked for questioning" Sunday as the result of a minor automobile accident north of Bloomington Saturday.

Their car went off the highway and when State Policeman Hal B. Raburn and Monroe County Deputy Sheriff Noble Sisco investigated, they noticed that one of the brothers wore heavy boots.

Investigators said they were checking to determine if the boots fitted footprints left in the mud outside the mill where the bodies were found. The brothers were locked in the county jail pending further questioning and investigation. 3-4-46

Prosecutor Robert McCrae said Mrs. Coleman's mother, Mrs. Mary P. Glifford, Coffeyville, Kan., had sent a letter, dated two weeks ago, cautioning the daughter to avoid any entanglement which would lead to a tragedy similar to the fate of the girl victim of a double slaying three weeks ago in a Coffeyville tourist camp.

"We have had a terrible murder here in Coffeyville," McCrae quoted the letter in part.

"A man and a woman have been murdered in a tourist cabin. I hope you take warning. Tear up this letter and scatter it to the winds." Monday

The letter was found in Mrs. Coleman's purse.

It referred to the slaying of Mrs. Opal Scott, 31, mother of two small girls and wife of a soldier overseas, and C. R. Benning, 27, discharged soldier. Their nude bodies were found in a tourist camp cabin south of Coffeyville Feb. 16. Both had been beaten to death. 3-4-46

Benning's bloodstained automobile was found the following day at Caney, Kan., 20 miles west of Coffeyville.

Police arrested 21-year-old Westley Frye at the home of his parents near Caney. He has been charged with the slayings. However, the motive still is obscure although police suggested one of jealousy. Monday

Bloomington authorities admitted they were without a motive in the slayings of Mrs. Coleman and Koontz but were pointing their efforts to investigation of the couple's affair.

They were killed Friday afternoon in a shed adjoining the mill and signs on the ground indicated they were dragged to the pit, then thrown into the sludge.

Mrs. Coleman had been strangled with a rope or wire. Koontz had died from a blow on the back of the head. Both had been bound and gagged before death. Koontz was found with Mrs. Coleman's slip stuffed into his mouth.

Both were fully dressed, except for Mrs. Coleman's slip. It was reported a woman's girdle had been found in the shed but McCrae denied it.

Koontz' automobile was found, locked, near the shed. In it was Mrs. Coleman's purse, containing several "love notes" from Koontz, one of which had been written after St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

"Received your valentine," it said. "Thanks for remembering me."

Prosecutor McCrae refused to make public any of the other notes, describing them only as "mushy" letters that "a high school freshman" might write.

SEEK ANOTHER MAN

Sheriff Robert Skirvin said that in view of "the affair" between the couple, his office would investigate thoroughly the possibility of another man being involved.

He had questioned a dozen persons, including Koontz' wife, Ruth, and Mrs. Coleman's husband, Kenneth, 40, but released all of them.

Police had discarded a robbery motive because a billfold containing $79 was found in Koontz' pocket. 3-4-46

Koontz and Mrs. Coleman had not been well known in Bloomington but were popular among members of the congregation of the Christian church at Clear Creek, a little farming community of less than 100 population four miles south of here.

Six weeks ago Koontz, at the request of church authorities, resigned as Sunday school superintendent because of "talk" about his affair with Mrs. Coleman. He continued to lead the choir.

Services, attended by 150 persons, were held as usual Sunday at the church, a small brick structure with stained-glass windows, located in the middle of an expanse of corn and wheat fields.

CHOIR MEMBER CRIES

The congregation, seated on wooded pews set diagonally to face the pulpit in the corner, was tensely quiet as they listened to a student from the Butler University School of Religion deliver a prayer and brief sermon. He did not mention the tragedy. 3-4-46

But as the choir of five women and four men sang "Break Through the Bread of Life" and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," tears ran down the cheeks of the women in the choir.

As investigators reconstructed the tragedy, they expressed belief Koontz and Mrs. Coleman had driven to the mill about noon Friday and that they had been killed within two hours.

Koontz had left his concern at 11:30 a. m., saying he was going to the desolate quarry area to inspect some equipment. Mrs. Coleman left the Johnson Creamery for lunch and failed to return. Relatives notified police when neither had appeared that night for dinner.

Sheriff Skirvin found the bodies.

LIVED IN CLEAR CREEK

Koontz had been associated with the stone company for 25 years. He and his wife, who were childless, lived in the Clear Creek community and both attended the Christian church.

Coleman and his wife, also childless, lived in the farm home of his mother and had planned to move to a farm they recently inherited.

Coleman, a mild-mannered, slender grocery clerk, told McCrae he had driven Mrs. Coleman to work Friday morning. He stayed in Bloomington during the morning, he said, and then drove to the new farm. He returned to Bloomington for his wife but when he called at the creamery he learned she had left early. He reported her disappearance that night.

He told McCrae he had not known of his wife's association with Koontz although McCrae said the "affair" had been common knowledge in Clear Creek.

Members of the Clear Creek church were shocked by the tragedy and reticent to discuss it.

PASTOR LEFT

However, Lee Mathers, member of the church board, said the Rev. George Wyatt, pastor of the church until six weeks ago, had been "released" and transferred to the Union Christian church at Franklin, Ind. 3-4-46

Asked if the Rev. Wyatt's transfer had any connection with the affair between Mrs. Coleman and Koontz, he replied:

"I don't want to tell you what went on. It wouldn't help things any."

The Rev. Wyatt said it had not. He declined to discuss the case but described Koontz as a man with "a mighty fine character."

It was learned that the Rev. Wyatt will officiate at funeral services for the victims. Services will be held for Koontz Monday in the Clear Creek church. Services will be held for Mrs. Coleman Tuesday or Wednesday.

Peeking Janitor Confesses Slaying Love Trysters

Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Ga. Tue. 3. 3-46

By ROBERT T. LOUGHRAN

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., March 4.—(UP)—A Negro confessed Monday that it was he who murdered Russell Koontz, business executive and choir singer, and his pretty girl friend after he interrupted their romantic interlude in an old mill at a lonely rock quarry.

Joseph Woolridge, 29, told police the brutal double slaying was precipitated when Koontz told him to "scram" and started menacingly toward the Negro, who said he had "chanced" on the couple Friday afternoon in the mill.

Woolridge, who has a record of sex crimes, said the killings had nothing to do with the illicit romance between Koontz and Mrs. Phyllis Coleman, 33. Their affair, which began in the Clear Creek Christian church, was the gossip of that tiny community.

A farmer's alertness in matching Woolridge's footprints with peculiar prints left in the mud of the quarry led to the Negro's arrest late Sunday. He signed a two-page confession Monday. A charge of murder was filed and Circuit Judge Austin East called a session of the grand jury for Wednesday. Tue 3.5-46

Coleman, 43, was married and childless. Mrs. Coleman, who was described as a "beautiful woman," worked for a creamery. Her husband, questioned after their bodies were found beaten and bruised was shocked to learn of their romance. He was released shortly and for 24 hours police were without a suspect.

An automobile wreck indirectly led to the Negro's arrest. Woolridge, with a brother, Cy Woolridge, 31, was in an automobile which went off the highway north of here. The accident was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burks. Burks, recalling the description of boot prints left at the scene of the double murders, noticed a similarity to prints in mud on the side of the highway where the Negroes' car was wrecked. Burks notified the sheriff's office.

Woolridge said he was hunting groundhogs, when he came upon the couple at the mill.

"The man raised up and said, 'Scram,'" Woolridge said. "But I wasn't going to move for him.

"He asked me if I knew him. He said to me: 'You won't tell, will you?'

"Then he started after me. I ducked him."

The Negro said he picked up a window weight and threw it at Koontz, hitting him in the head. Woolridge "realized" he had killed Koontz. Then the confession said, Mrs. Coleman asked:

"What are you going to do to me?"

Woolridge said he told her he was going to tie her up.

"I tied her hands and then put a cord around her neck," the Negro said. "I held the cord for about five minutes."

The Negro looked around for a place to hide the bodies and decided the pit was the best spot, the confession said. He said he threw Koontz's body into the pit first, after taking the victim's watch and a chain holding several keys. He said he threw the loot away later. Tue. 3-5-46

"I then carried the woman from the mill to the edge of the pit where I had placed the man," Woolridge said. "I untied the rope with which I had bound the woman's hands. I then lowered her body into the same pit with the man."

Woolridge said he tried to hide the bodies by throwing planks atop them.

Negro Assailant Slugs And Kills Youthful Nurse

The Herald, Farmington, N. Mex. Tues. 3-5-46

Another Is Critically Injured; Man Escapes After Hospital Attacks

Officials said Woolridge was sentenced in 1931 to 16 months at the Indiana Boys' school for petty larceny, and in 1936 was charged twice with public indecency and sentenced to six months on a sodomy charge. He is married and has two children.

The man encountered Miss Green and slugged her, apparently with a club.

Miss Overdeer found the injured nurse and was bending over to aid her when she too was slugged.

Miss Allen saw the assailant run down a corridor. The man fled into a room, then ran back into the corridor and finally escaped through the window by which he gained entrance.

Police began a roundup of suspects in a nearby Negro district. The hospital is part of the Indiana University medical center.

Dr. Van Nuys said the man broke into the hospital through a screened window about 3:30 this morning.

Dr. John D. Van Nuys, director of the hospital, said Miss Zella Al-

Local 9-11-46

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 11—Miss Alberta Green, 20, of Mt. Carmel, Ill., nurse at the Robert W. Long Hospital, was slugged fatally and another nurse, Miss Betty Overdeer, 20, of Indianapolis, was injured seriously by a man who broke into the hospital early today.

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (Iowa)

Refused Service, Man Kills Owner

Chronicle
Detroit Michigan
Sat 5-27-46

DAVENPORT, Ia. — Larue R. McClintic, 50, white, of Davenport, Ia., restaurant owner is dead this week as the result of injuries sustained when he chased James Curtis Gilland, 33, from his restaurant.

Gilland went into McClintic's restaurant on Friday evening and asked for service. McClintic refused him service and chased him with a butcher knife, after ordering him out of the lunch room.

Gilland killed him in self defense.

Gilland was apprehended Sunday in Aurora, Ill.

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (Ital.)

FBI Holds Seaman for Italian Killing

Afro-American
Baltimore
5-25-46

BOSTON — Landing here this week, aboard the steamship Samuel Johnston, Billie M. Askew, 35, of Baltimore was immediately arrested by FBI agents in connection with the slaying of an American soldier in Italy last January.

The man is said to have been fighting with other members of the Johnston crew while ashore in Civitavecchia, Italy.

GI Was Shot

The slain man was Thomas H. Waters, 29, also of Baltimore, who received a fatal bullet, when he tried to stop the fight.

Askew, who lived on George St., was arrested on a Federal warrant issued at Boston, at the request of the commanding general of the Mediterranean.

Man Nabbed in Boston For Murder in Italy

Richmond Times Dispatch
Richmond Va
Sat. 5-25-46

BOSTON, May 24—(AP)—A Baltimore Negro was arrested by FBI agents today on a charge of murder in the slaying of an American soldier in Italy last January.

FBI agents, who identified their prisoner as Billie Murray Askew, 35, of West George St., Baltimore, was arrested aboard the steamship Samuel Johnston, which docked at Boston today.

E. A. Soucy, Boston FBI chief, said the arrest was made at the request of the commanding general of the Mediterranean area on a Federal warrant issued at Boston.

Speculation Rises Over Motive For Killing Of Uptown Tavern Owner

The Louisiana Weekly
1-12-46
New Orleans Louisiana

By Ernest J. Wright

With all New Orleans discussing at fever pitch the alleged slaying of Mrs. Lena Gambino, last Saturday afternoon (December 29), several attempts were made to interview this week Walter Williams, the alleged slayer, now confined behind the bar of the Parish Prison at Tulane and Broad streets. 1-12-46

All efforts made to contact Williams and get his version of the tragic incident met with failure. Williams told officials of the parish prison that he had no statements to make to the press. Efforts to contact Williams' family also met with failure. Williams is alleged to have slain Mrs. Gambino following his request for a soft drink as he reported to work on Saturday morning, December 29. Williams is held on charge of murder in the parish prison without bond pending further investigation.

On practically every corner and in most public amusement places in the Garden District the sensational slaying of Mrs. Gambino allegedly by Williams who was employed at what was commonly called "Angelo's Place" for 12 years or more, has been the topic of discussion. Many of the customers of "Angelo's Place" who have been buying their drinks for years from the establishment are trying to fathom the why of Williams alleged slaying of Mrs. Gambino. If, according to the police report, "that Williams and Mrs. Gambino were going together", many observers say that it is hard to see the motive behind Williams' actions. A postman, who alleged that he knew both parties, expressed himself in this way, "Williams had been working there for many years and I can't understand why he would want to kill his employer because she told him (Williams), according to police reports, "that her husband was back from the Army and that he would have to sever relationships with her." "It seems to me," the postman continued, "that if two people had been seeing each other regularly for 12 years that they would understand each other and would not quibble on such a suggested procedure." A barmaid was of the opinion "I can't understand the coolness in which the whole thing is being carried on. Williams appeared to be a guy with a lot of common sense and must have known the penalty for such an act. It appears to me that he would have preferred to leave town rather than have become involved in such an affair. I tell you the truth, I just can't understand the whole tragic mess." 1-12-46



WALTER WILLIAMS

Time and again observers allege the deceased's husband had demonstrated a bad temper. On more than one occasion they allege he has roughly handled Negroes in his place and not very long ago he allegedly beat a Negro over the head with a pistol for cursing in the presence of his wife. It was reported by observers that whenever Mr. Gambino would be upstairs where he resided and he got reports that something unusual was going on downstairs he would rush downstairs with his gun in his hand. What puzzles the customers of the place is that it is allegedly reported that on the day of the shooting that he came downstairs when he heard the shots in his establishment and did not have his gun. Also, it is alleged that he did not exhibit a temper on learning that Williams had allegedly shot his wife. It is further alleged by observers, that he warned the arresting police officers not to harm Williams. Later on, one person, who is reported to be an employee of relatives of the Gambino's, is alleged to have heard Mr. Gambino make the statement that he preferred to have had Williams do the shooting than he. For if he had found out about Williams and his wife "I know I would have committed myself . . . as it happened, I am not in trouble at all."

Prior to the war "Angelo's Place" used to be the "meeting place" for all "nite lifers" on their way from the social functions. There was a special guest room with an entrance on Dacnel street. Before one could be permitted to enter, he or she would have to ring the door bell and a waiter would admit the guest. The patronage was so great that the place had to be enlarged.

Mr. Gambino, according to persons who used to frequent the place, was called the friend to the wage earner. The regular customers could go by any evening after work and get a few dollars until the next pay day. This service paid large dividends because Mr. Gambino was called a good fellow by his customers. 1-12-46



Held in the slaying of Mrs. Aneglo Lena Gambino last Saturday is Walter Joseph Williams who served twenty-three months in the South Pacific as a Steward First Class. He was employed as bartender at A. Gambino's, Fourth and Danneel streets.

Police Report Two Were Going Together; Tries To Kill Self After Shooting

All uptown New Orleans lies beneath fever heat speculation following the news of the tragic and untimely death of Mrs. Lena Gambino, 36-year old Italian saloon operator, shortly before noon, Saturday, December 29, at the hands of Walter Joseph Williams, 33-years, bartender of the establishment. Williams had been in the employ of the Gambinos since 1933, and threatened to kill her once before according to Mrs. Gambino's relatives.

At about 11:45 a. m., immediately after Mrs. Gambino opened a barroom located at 2701 Danneel street, Walter Williams, who resides at 1820 Philip street, reported for work. Williams walked behind the bar and picked up a revolver, owned by Mrs. Gambino, and fired four shots at Mrs. Gambino, three striking her in the head.

According to local daily papers, the end of the bar, Williams fired asked the police to kill him.

Williams is alleged to have taken ing with (Mrs. Gambino) while a soft drink from the bar, and her husband was in the U. S. cording to a police report Army." The report also stated an argument followed. He is then he "stood over her and fired two tendent of police by Captain Wilsupposed to have told Mrs. Gam- more shots." The daily papers al- liam Clark, Sergeant Pourciau, and bino that he was going to kill her. so stated that Williams tried to Patrolmen Joseph Mustachia and When Mrs. Gambino ran towards kill himself and when unsuccessful liams) that she had to quit him Elmore J. Pic, Williams "was go- because her husband had returned

According to the office of the superin- made to the of

from the Service."

Mrs. Gambino was removed to Charity hospital in an ambulance. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Charity.

According to the police report, Angelo Gambino, husband of the deceased woman, was upstairs at the time of the shooting. The couple resided in the apartment located above the bar.

Williams is an ex-war Vet, having served with the Navy as a steward first class. He was in the South Pacific for 23 months.

Alleged Gambino Slayer's Sanity To Be Determined

The Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La.
Sat. 12-7-46

Has Almost Spent One Year in Jail

Williams Navy Vet.

Was in Gambino Employ for 20 Years

After spending almost one year in the Parish Prison before being brought to trial for the alleged murder of Mrs. Lena Gambino last December, Walter Joseph Williams, 33, who resided at 1820 Philip St., will go before a lunacy commission Monday to determine whether he is insane or not.

Williams will be represented by Attorney Morris Wolfe who filed motion Monday morning in Criminal District Court for an extension in order that additional records of Williams' history in the navy might be obtained.

Williams is an ex-war vet, having served in the navy as a steward first class. He was in the South Pacific for 23 months.

Assistant District Attorney B. Amann will prosecute the case for the state.

Williams is alleged to have murdered Mrs. Gambino after the two became involved in an argument on the morning of Dec. 29 in her establishment where he had worked for over 20 years.

According to the police that investigated the murder, in a report that was made to the superintendent of police by Captain Williams Clark, Sergeant Pourciau and Patrolmen Joseph M. Mustachia and Elmore J. Pic, Williams was supposed to have been going with Mrs. Gambino while her husband was in the U. S. Army.

When the murder was committed police say that Williams was in the bar drinking a soft drink when Mrs. Gambino came in. They began to have heated



words over some matter pertaining to the business; then Williams is supposed to have told her that he was going to kill her. She ran to the end of the bar, where Williams shot her.

The murder of Mrs. Gambino caused widespread gossip in the uptown Garden Distfict.

Many Negro citizens were of the belief that Williams did not do the shooting since he had been working for the Gambinos for such a long time, and could have no motive for killing Mrs. Gambino.

Some expressed their belief that Mr. Gambino might be involved in the murder due to his bad temper and his numerous quarrels with his wife over matters about their beer garden.

Sat. 12-7-46

It is further alleged by observers that he warned the police not to harm Williams.

Just what is behind the mystery murder of Mrs. Gambino is a matter of speculation.

New Orleans, La.

Although Williams has been indicted for the murder of Mrs. Gambino, his plea of insanity has foundation, since Williams served much of his time in the navy while at sea and was in several overseas engagements.

The Louisiana Weekly

16b 1946 Whites, by Negroes (Maryland)

Brothers on Trial Again in Slaying

East Washington
6-9-46

Baltimore, June 11 (AP).—Testimony by physicians, a ballistics expert and two young people who discovered the body was introduced today as Weldon and Holbrook Jones, Negro brothers, went on trial a second time on charges of murdering I. Raynor Graham of Deal Island.

Sunday

Through counsel, the brothers, one of them once sentenced to die, pleaded innocent as the trial opened today in Baltimore criminal court. The defense waived a jury trial and the cast was being heard by Chief Judge W. Conwell Smith and Associate Judges John T. Tucker and Herman M. Moser.

Baltimore

Negro Handyman Held For 'Ice Box' Slaying

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 22—(AP)—A 31-year-old Negro handyman was in police custody today to await a further hearing after he had pleaded guilty to the "ice box" slaying last month of Miss Constance Catanzaro, 40.

Tues. 10-22-46

The woman's body was found in the chilling room of a wholesale fruit company, her throat slit with a banana knife.

Detective Lt. William Feehley said he had a statement signed by the laborer, Felix Maple, in which Maple said he had gone into headquarters of the fruit company and "lost his head."

Miss Catanzaro was bookkeeper and part-owner of the company.

Man Wanted In North Carolina Held in Murder

Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va. Thurs. 7-11-46

BOSTON, July 10—(AP)—William R. Taylor, Negro, who for two years has fought attempts to extradite him to North Carolina, where he is wanted as a fugitive, today is being held without bail on charges of slaying an elderly widow.

Taylor, who is 27, was arrested after the body of Mrs. Agnes Burnett, 84, was found nailed in a closet of a bedroom in her Roxbury apartment on June 29. A medical examiner's report revealed she died of stab wounds.

Tracing a radio stolen from the apartment to a pawnshop preceded Taylor's arrest. Taylor pleaded innocent to charges of murder and robbery in District Court. The case was continued until next Tuesday. Thurs. 7-11-46

Taylor had been out on bail in the extradition case when he was arrested. A Governor's warrant for his extradition to North Carolina was originally issued in 1944 at the request of Southern authorities, who said he escaped while serving eight to 12 years for armed robbery.

Taylor appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Court and was released on $5,000 bail, pending hearing of arguments in the fugitive case scheduled for October.

N.Y. Charity Aide Sought for Murder

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

BOSTON — The identity of the murderer of Mrs. Helen Cronin, white, in her Dacia St., Roxbury, apartment on July 6 is known and his arrest is iminent, Capt. Cornelius Leary of the Dudley St. police station said Friday.

The man is believed to have been a New York charity worker, and officers of several municipalities are assisting in efforts to find him, Captain Leary added.

Strangled With Belt

Mrs. Cronin was strangled to death with a belt, and a 12-year-old daughter beaten and almost strangled when the couple argued after making an early morning round of Back Bay taverns.

Detective Sgt. Raymond Monahan of the homicide squad quoted the daughter, Eleanor, as saying she was roused from sleep by moans from her mother's room and found the man standing over the parent. Sat. 7-27-46

The man was described as about 30 years of age and "fat-faced," and is alleged to have turned on the girl and tried to tie a belt around her neck.

The couple had only shortly returned from visiting the taverns and had eaten a lunch of chop suey with two of Mrs. Cronin's three children before the slaying occurred.

George Cronin, 42, estranged husband of the murder victim, was located this week and told police he will take his three children with him and provide them a new home.

Two of the younger children are now living with a relative, while Eleanor is confined at Boston Hospital where her condition is reported as "good."

16b 1946 hites, by Heroes (Michigan)

$30,000 Worthless to Detroit Physician; to Await Trial in Jail

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

DETROIT—When Dr. Henslee E. Tann appeared in Recorder's Court last week with $30,000 in cash for his bond to obtain his release, pending his trial on charges of criminal abortion, manslaughter and obstructing justice, he found the money worthless. Sat. 11-16-46

He was returned to jail and his bond fixed at $102,500 to insure his appearance for trial. The manslaughter case involves the death of a Leamington, Ontario, white woman in a Windsor, Ontario, hospital on Aug. 6, following an operation.

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (Miss.)

MISSISSIPPI MAN SHOT BY CONVICT

Birmingham, Alabama
The Herald

PARCHMAN, Miss., Feb. 12—(AP)—S. W. Gardner, Humphreys County plantation owner, was shot and killed yesterday on a pond on his plantation by an escaped Negro convict from the State Penitentiary, F. W. Guy, prison registrar, said today.

Guy reported the series of events involving the shooting as follows:

The Negro, working on a carpenter crew in frontof the penitentiary administration building, pulled a knife on a "shooter," an armed Negro trusty serving as a guard) and took a rifle from him. 2-13-46

The convict then held up Bernard H. Booth, Jr., a mail carrier, and forced Booth to drive him to a point between Sunflower and Moorhead where he forced Booth to get out of his car.

The convict then drove beyond Silver City and headed for the plantation of S. W. Gardner, where the convict's wife lived. The convict had told fellow inmates he had heard his wife was having an affair with another man and he planned to escape so he could kill her.

Near Silver City a posse saw the fleeing convict and gave chase. The convict wrecked the car and fled afoot to a pond, which he crossed in a rowboat. Getting his wife into the boat, the convict started back. Gardner, persuading the posse to withhold its fire, rowed out to urge the convict to surrender, but during the parley the convict shot Gardner through the heart, killing him. The posse opened fire.

The convict then fled to Gardner's home and hid in a closet from which he was dragged by Josh Taylor, white convict. A bullet from a posseman's gunshot had slightly wounded the Negro in the back. 2-13-46

Guy said no warrant had been issued for the convict as he is in custody in the prison hospital and no formal charge will be considered until the Humphreys County Grand Jury meets.

Victim Of Attack Dies In Mississippi

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

HATTIESBURG, MISS., Sept. 14.—(AP)—Injuries received yesterday morning when he was beaten about the head by an escaping prisoner, proved fatal today to E. M. Reynolds, 65-year-old Stone County jailer. Sun. 9-15-46

Meantime the sheriff's office at Wiggins reported this morning that the Negro jailbreaker, 25-year-old Marvin Murray, was recaptured and transferred to the Hinds County jail at Jackson.

Reynolds died at 2:45 a.m. at the Methodist Hospital here.

He had been employed as jailer and janitor for about six years, the sheriff's office said. Sheriff W. T. Lott said Reynolds was found unconscious Friday morning in Murray's cell, where he had gone to feed the Negro.

16b 1946 Whites, by Negroes (Missouri)

'MERCY' SLAYING COST $70, HE SAYS

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

Mechanic Admits Hiring Couple To Kill Wife

Mon. 11-18-46

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 17—(UP)—Emil Hutsel, 37-year-old mechanic, has confessed he hired a Negro couple for $70 to kill his semi-invalid wife because he couldn't bear to see her suffering and that he stood by last Friday night while she was shot to death as she lay in bed, authorities announced Sunday.

"I figured she would be better off," Hutsel said in a statement released by Police Chief Joseph Lemberger.

Hutsel said the slaying actually cost $150 because he was double-crossed by another Negro who accepted money "to do the job" but broke his promise.

Five Negroes, including Alma Mackay, 32, and Thad Crawford, 30, common-law man and wife, were in police custody.

Hutsel named Crawford and Alma Mackay as the couple who finally accomplished the job for him. He said Crawford killed Mrs. Hutsel while he and Crawford's wife and the Negro couple's two small children waited outside the Hutsel home. Police said Crawford and his wife admitted they were at the scene but that Crawford charged Hutsel had done the shoothing.

Hutsel's wife, Margaret, 34, suffered a paralytic stroke a few months ago. She was slain in her home in suburban Shrewsbury while her two children, Carl, 11, and Emily, 13, were in bed in other rooms. She was choked and shot once through the head. Investigators found a .32-caliber bullet in the mattress and marks on the victim's neck which they said appeared to have been made by grease-stained hands.

In addition to Crawford and his wife, St. Louis police were holding Sonny Harrison, 47, Negro laborer, accused of having reneged on a promise to kill Mrs. Hutsel, and Emmett White, 44, and his wife, 37, Negroes.

In the statement, Hutsel told how he tested the gun before his wife was slain and then, after she had been shot, went into her bedroom to make sure he had not been double-crossed a second time.

Hutsel said he first arranged with Crawford the night of Oct. 27 for another Negro to kill Mrs. Hutsel and that the night of Nov. 1 he gave Crawford $100. Crawford was to keep $20 and give the other Negro $80, Hutsel said.

He said he took his children out that night but when he returned home his wife was still living.

"I felt like I got stuck for the hundred dollars," he said.

Harrison admitted it was he who first had agreed to the killing, Police Lt. Michael Quinlisk said.

Harrison said Crawford drove him to the Hutsel home. He got out of the car, he said, and Crawford drove around the block. When Crawford returned, Harrison told him the job had been done.

Harrison said Crawford gave him $80. However, he added, he had not even entered the Hutsel home.

Hutsel said he met Crawford and Alma Mackay on Nov. 7 or 8, and Alma Mackay said she would see that Crawford completed the deal.

On the way to his home, he said, he asked Crawford for the revolver and tried it out. When he found that it would fire, he said, he gave Crawford $30, later giving him $20 after the slaying.

He said he waited outside his home with Crawford's wife and children while Crawford killed Mrs. Hutsel.

"I heard the pistol shot," he said, "but I wanted to make sure. Crawford had a flashlight and I took the light and shined it on my wife and could see she appeared to be dead. I went back to the car and drove away."

Lemberger said Crawford denied Hutsel's charge. Crawford said he and his wife waited outside with their children while Hutsel killed his wife. The Whites were held, he said, because Harrison claimed he saw White with a pistol which had been borrowed from Crawford's wife.

Hutsel broke down, Lemberger said, after several hours of intensive questioning.

The Hutsels' 11-year-old son, Carl, slept through the slaying.

Their daughter, Emily, 13, told deputy sheriffs she heard someone enter the kitchen by a rear door, go to her mother's room, then a shot; leaving by the rear door and then heard a car drive away.

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

She said she did not go into her mother's room but stayed in bed until her father came in. Officers said the girl apparently had been too frightened by what she heard to make a move.

Mon. 11-18-46

Girl Says Man Accused In Killing Of Wife Proposed

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

Wed. 11-20-46

St. Louis, Nov. 19 (AP) — Emil Hutsel, 37-year-old mechanic whose semi-invalid wife was shot to death four days ago, was charged with murder today after a coroner's jury heard testimony that he had proposed to a 21-year-old girl before the shooting.

Also charged with murder were a Negro man and a Negro woman.

Hutsel repeated to the jury his statement that for $150 he had hired Thad Crawford, 30-year-old Negro, to put Mrs. Hutsel "out of her misery." He testified, too, that Mrs. Alma Mackey, Negro, was with Crawford and himself the night his wife was killed.

Deputy Sheriff Harry Newbold told the jury Miss Virginia Atchison, 21, had signed a statement that Hutsel proposed marriage to her before his wife's death.

Admits Hiring Couple to Slay Paralytic Wife

PM New York, N.Y.

Mon. 11-18-46

Emil Hutsel, 37-year-old St. Louis garage mechanic, confessed to police he hired a man and woman for $70 to kill his semi-invalid wife because he could not bear to see her suffering and that he stood by while the man shot her as she lay in bed. Police said Hutsel admitted he had failed in an earlier attempt to have his wife slain because he was double-crossed by a man who accepted $80 to do the job but then broke his promise.

Five persons including Alma Mackay, 32, and Thad Crawford, 30, whom Hutsel claimed finally accomplished the job, were in custody. Crawford denied he killed Hutsel's wife, 37, a paralytic, and said Hutsel was guilty.

Hutsel said, according to police, that he made his first contact for a killer three weeks ago. This man, according to Hutsel, was Sonny Harrison 47, a laborer, who admitted to police he had reneged on a promise to kill Mrs. Hutsel. Harrison said that he was driven to the Hutsel home by Crawford and got out of the car after telling Crawford to drive around the block while he "did the job." When Crawford returned, Harrison told him the job had been done and Crawford paid him $80.

However, he said, he did not kill Mrs. Hutsel.

Hutsel had summoned police to his home early Saturday and told them he had discovered his wife's body when he returned from work shortly after midnight. He broke down under questioning.

MAN SAYS HE HIRED PAIR TO KILL WIFE

The Times New York, N.Y.

St. Louis Couple Admit Taking Money but Deny Murder of Semi-Invalid Mother

Mon. 11-18-46

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 17 (AP)—Emil Hutsel, 37-year-old garage mechanic, related in a signed statement today, Sheriff Arthur C. Mosley said, that he hired a Negro man and woman to kill his semi-invalid wife, Margaret, 34, to "put her out of her misery."

Mrs. Hutsel, who suffered a paralyzing illness two months ago, was shot to death in bed at her suburban home early yesterday as the two Hutsel children—Carl, 11, and Emily, 13—slept in an adjoining bedroom.

A single .38 caliber revolver bullet passed through her head, struck the wall and rebounded to the bed where it was found.

The Sheriff said that Hutsel admitted he hired the man and woman three weeks ago, paid them $100 at that time, another $40 later, and promised that another $30 would be in his wife's purse on a bedroom dresser after she was killed.

Sheriff Mosley said that Hutsel related that the Negro man and woman picked him up at the garage where he was employed and drove to his home.

The Negro man went into the house alone and shot Mrs. Hutsel, the statement said, after which Hutsel went in to "see if he had done the job," and all three left, Hutsel returning to his work at the garage.

The man and woman admitted, Sheriff Mosley said, that Hutsel had approached them with a proposition to kill his wife and that they had accepted part of the payment from him but denied taking part in the shooting. All three were being held without charge.

Authorities said Emily told them that she, her brother and mother retired about 9:30 P. M. Friday. Between 10 and 11 P. M., she said, she heard someone enter the house by the rear door and go into the mother's bedroom. She then heard a shot, but said she was too frightetned to investigate. Next she heard footsteps in the kitchen and a car being driven away.

Police Chief Joseph Lemberger said that Mrs. Hutsel apparently was aroused by the killer who grabbed her throat and left marks believed to have been made by grease.

He said the telephone in the four-room frame bungalow had been ripped from the wall, but that nothing had been stolen and that a purse containing $33 was found on a dresser.

Hutsel had reported earlier, Sheriff Mosley said, that he found his wife's body when he returned from work. He reported he could not use the telephone because the cord had been severed and that he awakened his children and drove with them to a neighborhood service station where he telephoned police.

16b 1946

Whites, b. Negroes (New Jersey)

THUGS SLAY DRIVER, SEIZE $5,000 LOOT

The Times
New York, N.Y.

Bakery Employe Shot 3 Time in Truck—Wounded Each Time He Protested

Wed. 12-18-46

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Dec. 17—Shot three times within a few minutes—once for each occasion that he opened his mouth or attempted to escape during a $5,000 holdup—Mortimer Bateman, 46 years old, of 2 Hillside Avenue, Newark, died at 7:10 o'clock tonight in St. Elizabeth Hospital.

A bakery driver, he crawled from his blood-spattered truck, parked in the Vauxhall section of Union Township at about 2:30 P. M., attracting the attention of persons in near-by houses. Before he lost consciousness he told the police that he had been kidnapped, shot and robbed, and described his assailants. On these few facts Newark detectives announced the detention of one man as a witness and said they were pushing a hunt for th eassailants.

These were described as two Negroes, one armed. The search centered in the Vauxhall area, which has a large Negro population.

Bateman, a trusted employe with twenty-five years' service, had left the Wiegler Baking Company plant at 74 Prince Street, Newark, at 1:40 P. M. Besides his regular deliveries, he carried a canvass sack containing $5,000 in receipts, most of it cash, with a few checks, for deposit in Federal Trust Company. Making such deposits was a part of his daily routine. He made a first stop, for a delivery, at 2 o'clock, at Wickliffe Street and Thirteenth Avenue, Newark, he told the detectives.

One of the hold-up men asked for a lift downtown, then climbed into the truck, the driver told the police. The second robber followed, flourishing a revolver and said, "This is a stick-up."

"I laughed, and he shot me in the stomach," Bateman said. "Then, while I lay on the floor, the unarmed man took the wheel and drove off. In a little while I told them I was in bad shape and asked them to let me out. They shot me again—in the back. When I tried to open the door and get out they shot me in the leg."

Max Bromwell of 92 Thirteenth Street, was standong on his front veranda when he heard the first shot and saw the truck drive away. He telephoned the bakery, which notified the police, but it was not until the robbers had stopped the car in Union Township and had fled on foot with the canvas bag that the police located the truck.

• The victim leaves a widow, Mrs. Frances Bateman, and a daughter, Estelle.

16b 1946 Whites, by Negroes (New York-- Ward Beecher Car wa)

Whole Story Missing In L.I. Murder Case

Amsterdam News, New York, N.Y.
Sat. 8-10-46

(Staff Correspondence)

MINEOLA, L. I.—A former GI from North Carolina, who had finished high school in Charlotte before joining the Army and serving as an infantryman in North Africa, has confessed the slaying of socially prominent Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, police authorities here announced last week.

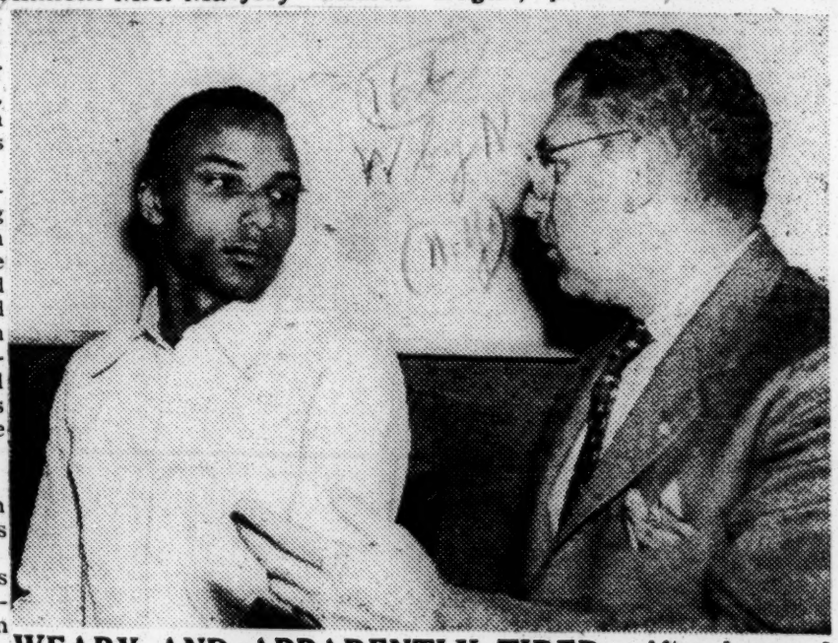
The suspect, accused of killing Mrs. Logan, 52, and shooting her daughter, Marjory Jeanne Logan, who is believed to be recovering in Nassau Hospital, was identified as Ward Caraway, 23.

Caraway, chauffeur-butler for another prominent white family living less than half a mile from the Logan home in Flower Hill, L. I., where the wealthy banker's wife was shot and instantly killed July 24, admitted being the man police had been searching for, it was said, since aroused Long Islanders were told hysterically by some newspapers that a Negro had murdered a white woman.

Denies Assault Charge

He has persistently denied, on the otherhand, that he raped Miss Logan after robbing her of $90.

"Yes, I shot her," Caraway was quoted as saying, "but I don't remember dragging her into a room and criminally assaulting her."



WEARY AND APPARENTLY TIRED: After hours of questioning as a suspect in the fatal shooting of prominent Mrs. Marjory Church Logan in Flower Hill, L. I., two weeks ago, Ward Beecher Caraway, 23, listens dejectedly to Asst. Dist. Atty. Frank Gulotta.

Caraway Reveals Pressure To Force Murder 'Confession'

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y. Thurs. 12-5-46

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, Dec. 4.—Nassau District Attorney James N. Gehrig continued today to lose the tooth and nail battle of legal fine points and verbal infighting he has been waging with defense counsel James D. C. Murray in the trial of Ward Beecher Caraway for the first degree murder of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan.

Yesterday Murray pried loose from Detective John Gsell the fact that Caraway had been grilled for more than 12 hours and that Mrs. Caraway had been threatened with jail if he didn't confess.

Today, Caraway, taking the stand for limited testimony, charged a detective had placed a knife to his throat and threatened to "kill the - - - - - - now."

Murray is attempting to prove Caraway's alleged oral confession was extracted by coercion. Despite the fact that Judge Henry J. A. Collins has ruled that this is the issue before the court, Gehrig continued to ask questions that Murray objects to on the grounds of their being "presumptive and leading." He was sustained each time by Collins.

Caraway declared police had threatened to arrest Mrs. Caraway and to take into custody other members of his family if he didn't confess. On one occasion, when Gehrig asserted Caraway had testified of a promise to confess if he could see his wife, Murray had the court reporter re-read the testimony and Gehrig was forced to withdraw the question. 12-5-46

Find Caraway Grilled 12 Hours

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 3—Nassau County police questioned Ward Beecher Caraway continuously for more than twelve hours after they had arrested him for the murder of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan last July.

In the second day of the trial, Caraway's counsel, James D. C. Murray painfully extracted this fact from Detective John Gesell. He also indicated that Mrs. Marie Caraway, the defendant's wife, had been threatened with imprisonment to force a confession. Wed.

Murray asked Gesell to describe the long and intensive questioning that Caraway had been subjected to by several detectives and Assistant District Attorney Frank Gulotta. 12-4-46

"We just asked him questions," Gesell replied uneasily.

Again and again Murray questioned Gesell as to the circumstances surrounding Mrs. Caraway being brought to the offices of District Attorney James N. Gehrig, where the questioning was going on. Finally Gesell pleaded that although he knew she was not involved in the crime he was "just carrying out the orders of his superiors."

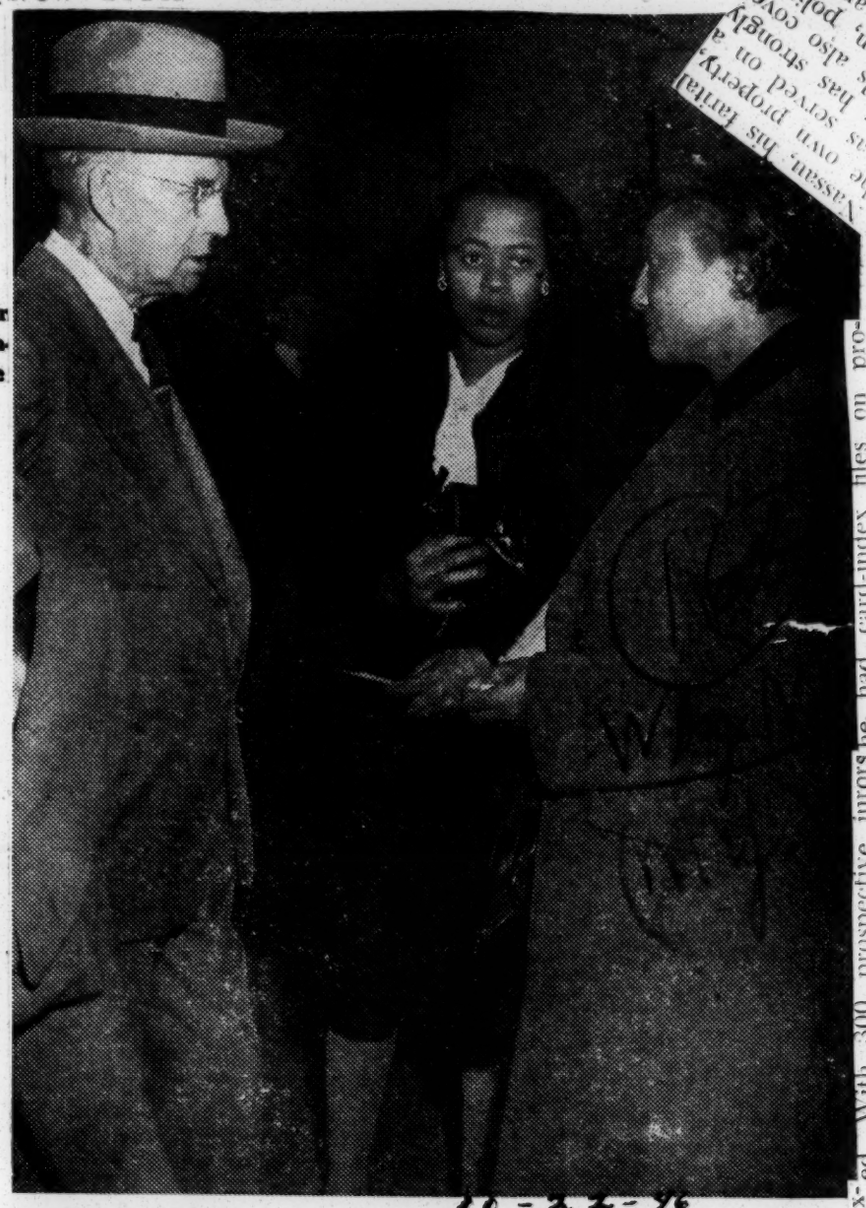
"Isn't it a fact," Murray shot at him, "that you threatened to throw Mrs. Caraway in jail if he didn't confess."

"There was something said about her being held as a material witness."

Despite Judge Henry J. A. Collins surprise ruling yesterday, Gehrig could not introduce testimony concerning the alleged rape of Marjorie Jeanne Logan, daughter of the deceased, the DA insisted on doing so. Each time Murray vigorously objected and was sustained by Judge Collins.

Just after the arrest and "confession" of Caraway the DA's office had reported that Caraway had been prevailed upon by his wife to confess.

Mrs. Caraway told the Daily Worker "the police reports that I asked my husband to confess are not true." 12-4-46



Mistrial James D. C. Murray, who replaced ailing Charles R. Weeks as defense counsel in the murder trial of Ward Beecher Caraway, chats with Caraway's wife and mother at Nassau County Court. Nov. 21 is new trial date. Tues. 10-22-46

Caraway Trial May Delay Murder Trial

PM New York, N.Y.
Wed. 11-27-46

The stomach ailment afflicting Ward Beecher Caraway caused several interruptions of his first-degree murder trial in Nassau County Court yesterday and in-

duced rumors that the trial may be postponed until he is well.

Caraway first collapsed in court last Friday and has suffered from recurring attacks ever since. Dr. John F. Dixon, Jr., of Garden City, who was summoned to court yesterday to treat him, diagnosed his ailment as gastritis, but on demand of defense attorney James D. C. Murray the defendant was taken to Meadowbrook Hospital for examination.

With 300 prospective jurors questioned thus far only 10 have been chosen, and 100 more were ordered to appear today. Of the 44 talesmen were excused, with peremptory challenges allowed files but protested to PM's reporter, inside the prosecution has thus James Parlatore, that Parlatore them some eight and the defense 14, was "trying to make thing sinister." N. Attorney James Gehrig insists that the check on in the courtroom during a took violent exception to jurors is routine and legitimate and Tuesday's PM story stating that that it covers only a juror's length of residence in Nassau County, his property, and whether he has served on a jury before. Murray's reply that the card-index files on prospective jurors' race, religion, politics, and affiliations, and social associations.

HELPING TO LOCATE MURDER WEAPON

Times New York, N.Y. Sat. 8-3-46



Ward Beecher Caraway (right) handcuffed to Detective John Gsell in field at Flower Hill, L. I., where two parts of revolver were recovered.

READ ALLEGED CONFESSION IN CARAWAY TRIAL

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Sat. 12-7-46

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 6.—Jeanne Logan, daughter of murdered Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan, testified today that Ward Beecher Caraway shot her twice, after fatally wounding her mother.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig began the first degree murder trial by reading, for one hour and 39 minutes, 67 pages of an alleged confession by Caraway from which 17 questions had been deleted by order of Judge Henry J. A. Collins.

The statement was different from other statements by Caraway in which he insisted he spent the day of the killing at an auto service station and at the home of his employer, J. M. Rose.

When Miss Logan testified, James D. C. Murray, defense counsel, and Gehrig had another clash about Gehrig's "leading questions" which ended in Justice Collins sharply reprimanding Gehrig.

When Murray cross-examined Miss Logan, he inquired as to when she first gave a description of her assailant to the police. She said that it was in the Nassau Hospital.

It is to be remembered that at that time there were several descriptions given out to the press by Gehrig's office, one of which was a "starey-eyed Negro." Murray asked her to look at Caraway and to say whether he looked the same as he did the day of the murder.

She gazed in his direction and answered, "They are exactly the same now as then." Caraway has soft eyes.

Rape Testimony Ruled Out In Caraway Murder Trial

PM New York, N.Y.

By ARNOLD BLOM AND JAMES PARLATORE

District Attorney James N. Gehrig's attempt to inject the alleged rape of Margory Jeanne Logan into the case was ruled out of order by Judge Henry J. A. Collins in Nassau County in Mineola as Ward Beecher Caraway's first-degree murder trial opened yesterday. Tues. 12-3-46

After three or four rounds of legal infighting between Gehrig and defense Attorney James D. C. Murray on this point, the judge recessed to think the matter over during lunch. On his return he said he will admit the testimony on the shooting and alleged robbery of Miss Logan and the slaying of her mother, but no testimony about rape.

This was a victory for Murray, but it presents Gehrig with the problem of getting over to the jury the full account of how where, when, and why Miss Logan was shot without bringing in any hint of rape. The indictment against Caraway does not charge rape. Miss Logan said after the crime that Caraway shot her in the face and neck after the alleged assault.

The battle over the rape issue was only one of a half-dozen which punctuated Gehrig's opening address. Because of Murray's repeated objections, Gehrig had to outline his case in two parts, before and after lunch. Gehrig started at 10:10 and wound up at 2:05; Murray's address took only 15 minutes.

The 23-year-old Caraway, impassive as always, did not by so much as a facial twitch show any discomposure when Murray described him as a drug addict on the border line of sanity and asked that he be convicted of murder.

"I want you," Murray told the all-male jury, "to vote this man guilty of something less than guilty of murder in the first degree. That's all I ask."

While this was going on Miss Logan and her father, William John Logan, sat stiffly in the front row about 25 feet away from the butler-chauffeur who killed their mother and wife, socialite Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, in a holdup at their Flower Hill home the morning of July 24.

The first witness was Christian Siegmann, Jr., of Hempstead, a surveyor, who presented maps of the Logan home and estate and the general area. The third was Dr. Abraham W. Freireich of Malvern, deputy medical examiner and toxicologist of Nassau County, who told of finding Mrs. Logan's body on her living-room floor. She had been shot through the head.

The second witness was Logan himself, the epitome of a retired banker, which he is. Tall, dignified, ruddy - faced, gray - haired, with gold-rimmed glasses, and in mourning. He answered Gehrig's questions in a low voice which penetrated to the farthest corners of the room. He said his daughter, the morning of July 24, had driven him to the Plandome station, where he had taken the 9 o'clock train to visit his widowed mother in Brooklyn.

On the same train, on a triweekly trip to New York, was, by odd chance, Caraway's employer, Joseph Rose, whose home is a little less than a mile from the Logans. Caraway, said Gehrig, drove Rose to the station, then returned to his quarters, got a .32 Iver Johnson revolver, and set out with the express purpose of robbing the Logan home.

Never once during his testimony did Logan look at Caraway, but off the stand he seldom looked at anyone else. Miss Logan occasionally looked over her shoulder at the courtroom, but usually stared straight ahead and avoided looking at Caraway. Miss Logan, who is 26, wore a grey dress with a red belt, and around her light brown hair was a blue bandanna.

Ten feet directly behind the Logans were Caraway's wife, Marie, and his mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Barnes of Charlotte, N. C.

It was in a Charlotte hospital, said Murray, that Caraway became a drug addict. He said that Caraway worked in the hospital's drug room from last February to June and helped himself to pocketfuls of various drugs with which he and his friends would go on "jags."

Murray said he would try to prove that Caraway didn't know where the Logan home was, that he never saw any of the Logans before, that he had a good sum of money and nowhere to spend it, and that because he was drugged he didn't know why he shot Mrs. Logan or what he was doing.

After Dr. Freireich's testimony Judge Collins, over Gehrig's objection, adjourned court until 10 a.m. on Murray's plea that he had a headache. 12-3-46

Caraway PM Strategy Hinted at New York, N.Y. New Trial

Fri. 11-22-46

By JAMES PARLATORE

Indications were today that defense attorney James D. C. Murray will try to save Ward Beecher Caraway from the electric chair on the ground that he was under the influence of drugs at the time he killed Mrs. Marguerite Logan in her Flower Hill home during a holdup July 24.

In questioning prospective jurors yesterday, as the task of choosing a second jury began in Nassau County Court, Murray insisted that the butler-chauffeur's mental attitude at the time must be taken into account.

Albert Deutsch reported in PM Oct. 14 that under hypnosis Caraway told two psychiatrists that he had been in the habit of taking barbiturate sleeping pills to make him "feel high," and that he had this feeling, as a result of taking two pills, at the time he invaded the Logans' home and shot and killed Mrs. Logan.

Murray challenged the prosecution's description of the crime as a felony murder, which carries the death sentence, and insisted that the jury could return any verdict down to first-degree manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years. Fri. 11-22-46

District Attorney James N. Gehrig returned to the line of questioning he used in choosing the first jury. He asked each prospective juror if he was a member of any committee formed as a result of the Ferguson killings in nearby Freeport. Caraway, like the two slain Ferguson brothers, is Negro.

Caraway's first trial began a month ago, and a week was taken up in selecting the jury. The day the actual trial opened the defense attorney, Charles R. Weeks, became ill, and subsequently Judge Henry J. A. Collins declared a mistrial and appointed Murray as Weeks' successor.

Of 150 talesmen subpoenaed to appear yesterday only 87 showed up. Of these 26 were excused, 20 questioned, 15 excused for cause, two challenged by each side, and only one chosen.

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rney, James D. C. near Plandome on Long Island's
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4 Caraway

Jurors Picked

New York, N.Y.

Three more jurors have been
chosen for the first degree murder

16b 1946 Whites, by Negroes (New York--Ward Beecher Caraway)

Blanked Out By Drugs, Says Caraway

PM New York, N.Y. Wed 12-11-46

By James Parlatore

Ward Beecher Caraway yesterday swore he had no recollection of having shot and killed Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan, Flower Hill socialite, last July 24.

The 22-year-old butler, testifying in his own defense in Mineola County Court, said that he had taken three capsules of a barbiturate drug that morning because he was in a hurry to get through his housework and go to visit a friend in Philadelphia.

"To make my burden lighter and give me more speed," he said, "I took a few of my capsules. There were about three of them.

"I have a recollection of going into a home and seeing someone, and if I'm not mistaken I think there was a shot fired."

He added that he didn't recall who fired the shot.

"The next thing that is absolutely clear," he went on, "is when I was in the home of Mr. Rose (Joseph M. Rose, his employer) and I was getting off the bed where I was sleeping.

"When I woke up I noticed I had a gun in my pocket, and due to my curiosity I noticed that three shells had been exploded."

That same day, he said, he read about the crime in the papers and began to wonder whether he was the person responsible, because the three bullets in his gun had been discharged and he discovered a new roll of bills in his pockets. He told how he broke the gun, and disposed of the parts, and also hid the money.

While Caraway was testifying, his mother, Mrs. Chalmers Barnes, frequently covered her eyes with her hands, while his wife, Marie, brought her hand up to her face and held it there.

The courtroom itself, filled to capacity with about 150 persons, resembled a small movie house as attendants, behaving like ushers, had strung up a line outside in the corridor to control the overflow crowd.

Many in the corridor had brought their lunches.

Caraway for the first time told how he was dicharged dishonorably from the Army. He said that he took a small radio and a rifle from an Army roommate to "reimburse myself" for being "clipped" by him. 12-11-46

In December, 1944, he said he was court-martialed and sentenced to eight months in a stockade in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. After completing his sentence, he was put on probation, but four months later he was picked up for having marijuana cigarets and was dishonorably discharged.

Caraway also testified that he first began smoking marijuana while he was in the Army. He told, also, how he later stole drugs from the Presbyterian Hospital, in Charlotte, N. C., where he worked from February to May of this year, after his Army discharge. He said he brought along about 200 of these barbiturate capsules when he came to New York.

He will take the stand under cross-examination again today.

Caraway Due Today to Hear Jury Verdict

PM New York, N. Y. Fri. 12-13-46

By Dick Armstrong and James Parlatore

Ward Beecher Caraway, the butler accused of murdering Mrs. Marjory Church Logan last July 24, should know his fate before today is over. The jury in Nassau County Court will get the case as soon as both sides have summed up and Judge Henry J. A. Collins has delivered his charge this morning.

The possible verdicts are acquittal or first or second-degree murder.

The final day of testimony was notable chiefly for the number of State rebuttal witnesses who damaged Caraway's case. James D. C. Murray, famous criminal lawyer fighting to save the defendant's life, hammered away savagely at these witnesses on cross-examination, while Caraway sat sphinx-like through the day. But he was able to make a serious break in the testimony of only one.

This one was Dr. Abraham Frieriech, Nassau County Deputy Medical Examiner, who supported Dr. Perry M. Lichtenstein and Dr. William M. Garretson in declaring that the barbituates which Caraway says he swallowed just before the killing could not have stimulated him nor deprived him of reasoning powers. Frieriech said such drugs always put a man quickly to sleep. Murray leaped to his feet.

Didn't the doctor remember, he demanded, having been called a few months ago on the case of a woman who leaped out a window and ran from her house after taking 23 pills like those Caraway says he took? Dr. Frieriech conceded this was so.

However, Murray was able to do little with Earl Allen, a State witness who used to work with Caraway in Trenton. Allen insisted Caraway came to him last June and proposed a holdup, particularly asking whether Allen knew where to get some bullets.

It was on the State's belated introduction of fresh evidence from Allen that the defense had moved late Wednesday for a mistrial. Judge Collins denied the motion when the trial resumed yesterday. Murray did put up a successful fight, then, against District Attorney James N. Gehrig's effort to refresh Allen's memory with an affidavit taken a week ago.

TRIAL OF CARAWAY DUE TO END TODAY

The Times Fri. 12-13-46

3 Witnesses Assail Defense of Derangement by Drugs as Court Denies Mistrial

New York, N.Y.

Special to The New York Times.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 12—Three prosecution witnesses tore into Ward Beecher Caraway's defense when the trial was resumed in County Court today after Judge Henry J. A. Collins had ruled against a mistrial on a technicality raised yesterday by defense counsel.

The case is expected to go to the jury sometime tomorrow, both sides having completed their direct testimony tonight.

Caraway is on trial for first-degree murder in the slaying of Mrs. William John Logan, wife of a retired New York banker, in her home at Flower Hill, L. I., on July 24. His defense has been temporary derangement due to barbiturate drugs taken on the morning of the murder—thus trying to make it a second-degree offense.

The witnesses today included Dr. Perry Lichtenstein, medical assistant to the District Attorney of Manhatan; Dr. William Garretson, specialist in neuro-psychiatry, and Dr. Abraham F. Freireich, Nassau County toxicologist and deputy medical examiner. They not only rebutted testimony given yesterday by defense experts that persons having an idiosyncracy to barbiturates would pursue a course of conluct such as Caraway is accused of having done and still not be able to recall the acts.

Talk of Crime Recalled

Drs. Lichtenstein and Garretson reported conversations with Caraway in the Nassau County jail between Aug. 6 and 9 purporting to show an ability to recall his acts far better than any shown in statements he gave to the authorities after his arrest on July 31, or in his testimony at the trial.

In the interviews with the witness at the jail Caraway, it was testified, recalled many of the details of Mrs. Logan's death and of the robbery and shooting of her 26-year-old daughter, Marjory Jeanne Logan.

In his testimony at the trial and in his statements to District Attorney James N. Gehrig, the 24-year-old butler-chauffeur was vague. His best recollection, he said on those occasions, was of walking into a house, of seeing "an elderly white lady," of thinking he heard a shot and of going to a room upstairs.

Varying Contentions Shown

When asked by the physicians how he knew the Logan girl was upstairs, he would not answer, according to the doctors. But Caraway remembered asking Miss Logan for money and of firing two shots at her, according to the jail conversations reported by the physicians. He said on the witness stand that he could not recall these incidents.

Dr. Lichtenstein testified that Caraway had told him of taking barbiturates and of saying that the last time he took them was "the last of May or about June 1." He said that when he asked Caraway if he had used marijuana or barbiturates on the morning of the crime, the prisoner replied, "no, sir."

Caraway, placed on the stand to rebut the testimony of the two doctors, denied their statements.

USE BY CARAWAY OF NARCOTICS TOLD

The Times

North Carolina Youths Testify at Murder Trial of His Habit of Taking Drugs

New York, N.Y.

Special to The New York Times.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 9 — The free and easy manner in which most of Ward Beecher Caraway's friends regarded narcotics and other drugs, and the colorful language in which they described their attitudes, highlighted today's testimany at the opening of the 24-year-old butler-chauffeur's defense. He is on trial on a charge of murder in county court here before Judge Henry J. A. Collins, accused of having slain Mrs. William John Logan on July 24.

Caraway's counsel, James D. C. Murray, is contending that the defendant was under the influence of drugs at the time of the crime, and temporarily deranged. 12-10-46

Mr. Murray put on a succession of witnesses to prove that Caraway had stolen barbiturate drugs while he was employed by the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, N. C., that he had been in the habit of taking them and that they made him act strangely. He called upon hospital officials, members of the defendant's family and friends to testify to these contentions.

The friends provided the color at today's session. Although, like the defendant, they virtually all were high school graduates, their testimony was rich with slang terms. Thus the barbiturate drugs were referred to as "gage" and and marijuana as "weeds." They broke "gage" down into two categories—"wet" and "dry." Barbiturates in capsule form were described as "wet," while those in tablet form were characterized as "dry."

The effects of the "gage" on Caraway when the friends went "nightclubbin' in the sportsmen's soda grill and in Sunset Park" in Charlotte were described thus by one witness:

"After he had taken the drug he became very jolly, as if something struck him, and he would jump with felicity. Then he would stop all of a sudden and seemed to be in deep meditation. Then sometimes he became comical."

Another witness testified that Caraway had told him of smoking "weed"—marijuana.

The defendant's wife, Mrs. Marie Caraway; his mother, Mrs. Ida May Barnes; his stepfather, Chalmers A. Barnes, testified that they had seen Caraway aft strangely after his discharge from the Army.

Mrs. Caraway said that at the home of his employer in Flower Hill Estates her husband had a box the size of a shoe carton that was filled with capsules he had stolen from the hospital. His mother and stepfather testified that he had left behind in his old clothes a fistful of the drugs.

Family and friends were preceded on the stand by Carlos M. Hollingsworth and Walter Bettis. Hollingsworth is in charge of the supply room at the hospital in Charlotte and Mrs. Bettis is an assistant superintendent. Under direct examination by the defense they testified that Caraway could have pilfered the capsules, but when asked under cross-examination by District Attorney James N Gehrig if thedrug for which they were responsible could be stolen, they replied not in any great amounts.

Caraway will take the stand tomorrow.

CARAWAY DISPLAYS DIM RECOLLECTION

The Times New York, N. Y.

He Explains in Testimony at Trial That Narcotics Played Tricks on His Memory

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 10—Ward Beecher Caraway was vague in his testimony today when he took the stand at his murder trial to give his recollection of the fatal shooting of Mrs. William John Logan in her home at Flower Hill, L. I., on July 24. Wed. 12-11-46

He explained that his recollection was hazy because he had taken harbiturate drugs on the morning of the killing. He recalled quently resorted to the drugs on the morning of the crime, he asked. Caraway replied, "I wasn't sure." The former butler-chauffeur was hazy also about the assault, rob-

Memory Poor, Then Good

remember, for in- months.

However, when asked by Mr. had told a deputy Gehrig if he had told Dr. Lichten- Nassau County jail stein that he had used barbiturates ce there that the used were liquor on the morning of the crime, he also could not re- could remember that he had.

When asked by the prosecutor Dr. Perry Lichten- why he had not mentioned taking State's psychi- one of the

bery and shooting of Marjory Jeanne Logan, 26-year-old daughter of the slain woman. He recalled vaguely that he had been in a room "upstairs."

Under direct examination by James J. McDonough, associate defense counsel, Caraway said that on the night before the crime he had made an appointment by long distance telephone to visit a friend in Philadelphia at noon the next day. Mindful of this appointment, the next morning, as he was cleaning the home of his employer, and "in order to make my burden lighter, to give me more speed," he took three barbiturate capsules, he said.

Tells of Pistol in Pocket

When he awakened about 2 P. M. in the home of his employer, he continued, his mind was clear. He found a pistol in his pocket and out of "curiosity," examined it and noticed that the three shells he knew had been in it had been exploded, he testified. Under cross-examination he said he got the weapon from his father, a lay preacher, in exchange for a radio, and had lied when he said that he had purchased it in Trenton, N. J.

Later, his testimony continued, he went to a filling station in Port Washington to have his employer's automobile serviced, heard talk about the crime, and began to wonder. He said:

"It caused me to wonder that I was the person due to the fact that the three bullets had been discharged."

In his direct testimony he told of having undergone treatment for syphilis while in the Army and of having been dishonorably discharged. Complaints against him while in the service were larceny and possession of narcottics.

Caraway was a calm witness, pausing before giving his replies. He spent the entire day on the stand, two hours under direct examination and three under cross-examination.

MISTRIAL WEIGHED IN CARAWAY CASE

The Times

Legal Technicality Seized Upon by Defense to End Trial Second Time

New York, N.Y. Thurs. 12-12-46

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 11—The possibility of a mistrial in the prosecution of Ward Beecher Caraway, accused of the slaying of Mrs. William John Logan, appeared a few minutes after five o'clock tonight after the defense rested. The mistrial, if granted, will be the second in the case.

Motion for the mistrial was made by James D. C. Murray, counsel for the defendant, after District Attorney James N. Gehrig had put on two rebuttal witnesses who testified concerning a conversation between them an dthe defendant when they were fellow employes in a laundry in Trenton, N. J.

Although he had overruled two previous objections and a motion for a mistrial, County Judge Henry J. A. Collins, took under advisement a fourth request, interrupting the testimony of a witness to adjourn until 10 A. M. tomorrow.

Bosted of "Perfect Crime"

The witnesses who led to the unexpected turn in the trial were Earl Allen and Frank Moore, both of Trenton, N. J.

Moore testified that in a conversation with Caraway the defendant first asked him if he had any "Mary Anna"—marijuana—or if he knew where any could be obtained. Moore replied "No" to both inquiries. Then the witness testified the conversation got around to whisky and that Caraway had said he got more of a "kick" out of "weeds" than he did out of drinking.

Moore related that Caraway had said he could commit the perfect crime: could hold up a bank, escape from the scene in a car, switch to a boat and not get caught; that if the witness ever heard of the perfect crime being committed he would know that Caraway did it.

When Allen took the stand the defense counsel argued that neither Moore nor Allen's testimony was proper in rebuttal. Mr. Murray said that if Mr. Gehrig sought to have it in the record he should have laid the groundwork for its introduction in his cross-examination of the defendant. The conversation between the three had not been brought out by the prosecutor in the cross-examination and hence could not be rebutted by the District Attorney, Mr. Murray contended.

Jury Is Withdrawn

The jury was withdrawn and Phillip Huntington, dean of the prosecutor's staff, argued the District Attorney's point ten minutes. He said the prosecutor had obtained knowledge of the conversation only recently and hence could not have brought it out earlier.

The defense rested after introducing as evidence a transcript of a teletype alarm broadcast by the Nassau County police at 11:10 A. M., July 24, twenty minutes after the crime. The alarm referred to the suspect as having "starey eyes" and "maybe a mental case."

This evidence apparently was to support the defense's contention that Caraway was temporarily deranged due to barbiturate druge he took on the morning of the crime.

The defense also sought to have its contention of temporary insanity supported by the head of the Nassau County Detective Division. Caraway's counsel placed on the stand Inspector Stuyvesant Pinnell in an effort to have the transcript introduced at the morning session. Mr. Gehrig fought the attempt off successfully on the ground that it was hearsay evidence.

Dr. Mortimer Danzer and Dr. Thomas Cusack, both of Brooklyn, testified as defense experts, the first as an authority on drugs and the latter as a psychiatrist. Both said that Caraway's reaction to the barbiturate drugs was not normal but that persons having an idiosyncracy to the drugs would react the way the defendant said he did.

DA's Surprise Witnesses Bring Legal Snarl in Caraway Trial

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Thurs. 12-12-46

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 11.—Defense counsel James D. C. Murray threatened to move for a mistrial today, when Nassau District Attorney James N. Gehrig called in two surprise witnesses, in the trial of Ward Beecher Caraway for the alleged murder of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan.

The surprise witnesses, Frank Moore and Earl Allen, were two Negroes who worked with Caraway in a Trenton laundry.

Moore said Caraway had asked him where to purchase marihuana, and that he had stated, 'If there ever was a perfect crime I committed it." Murray refused to question him.

When Allen took the stand, Assistant District Attorney Huntington stated, while the jury was absent, that Allen was to testify that Caraway had said to him he would rather rob to make a living, and that he would shoot his victim if necessary. This, Huntington argued, constituted premeditation.

Judge Henry J. A. Collins declared, "A serious point has been raised here, and in order to rule fairly I feel the necessity for deliberation on this novel point of law raised by the district attorney."

Previously Murray had called two medical experts, Dr. Mortimer Danzer, and Dr. Thomas S. Cusack, who testified the drugs taken by Caraway would cause "confusion . . . excitement . . . loss of judgement . . . and suspension of human inhibition. . . ."

Defense Reveals Caraway's Use Of Drugs as Factor in Murder

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Tues. 12-10-46

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 9.—Defense witnesses for Ward Beecher Caraway in his first degree murder trial for the murder of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan, today testified that he used barbiturates as a stimulant, and that they were pilfered from the Presbyterian Hospital in his home at Charlotte, Thomas Grier, Davis R. Shipman ashamed of it."

North Carolina. and Alpha Stewart.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig's line of attack was by reference to

It is the contention of his counsel, James D. C. Murray, that witnesses' testimony by reference to mother declared that his childhood had been very unhappy because of their personal life in the South, and on the morning of the murder, a cruel father, and that the home of the money that Caraway was under the influence had broken up as a result of his made great store of the of the drug which he had brought mental and physical cruelty to her. Caraway had at the time of the killing. It is alleged by the DA that

Mrs. Ila Mae Barnes, Caraway's She told of how Caraway had re- killing. It is alleged by the DA that to New York from the South. He turned home with his wife and that Caraway had only $14 when pickintroduced four different kinds of she had noticed a definite change ed up, while Mrs. Caraway claims drugs as exhibits B, C, D and E. in his demeanor both to her and she had given him $20 and he had

Two of the hospital officials, to his wife. When she learned he taken $120 of their bi-monthly Carlos Hollingsworth, chief of the was dealing in drugs she asked him wages from the employ of Mr. J. drug supply room at the hospital, to leave her home where he and M. Rose in Flower Hill, L. I. and Harold L. Bettis, the hospital's Mrs. Marie Caraway, his wife, were assistant superintendent, although living. Also testifying was Mr. called by the defense gave little in Chalmers Barnes, Caraway's step- that direction. They both denied father, who said he had destroyed that the drug had been missing a handful of capsules and tablets from the supply room. In fact taken from Caraway's pockets. Hollingsworth was quite hostile Mrs. Caraway told of how they when questioned by James Mc- had come to New Jersey from the Donough, assistant to Murray. South and that Caraway had

Other witnesses called from brought drugs along with him. She Charlotte, were three youths who declared that although she knew claimed that Caraway had taught of them when questioned by police them to use the drugs and then had after the killing, she had withheld supplied them. The youths were knowledge of it because "she was

16b 1946 hites, by Negroes (New York) w

Drugs Blotted Out His Memory, Caraway Declares on Stand

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y. Wed. 12-11-46

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, L. I., Nov. 10.—Ward Beecher Caraway today declared "I might have, and then again I might not have," killed Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan. He blamed drugs he had taken the day of the crime for his loss of memory. Caraway, first witness called by the defense, was calm and clear under the insistent cross-examination of Nassau District Attorney James N. Gehrig, but declined to confess or deny the killing.

Responding to defense counsel, Caraway described an unhappy childhood in Charlotte, N. C., with a cruel father. After he finished elementary school his parents separated and he sold papers and did other odd jobs after school to support himself and his mother.

The slight youth told of taking a machinist course at an NYA training school in the South and of being inducted into the Army, where he first began taking drugs and smoking marihuana in 1943.

COURT MARTIALED

In October, 1944, after returning to the U. S. from service overseas, he was accused of larceny by a civilian and was court-martialed. He was sentenced to a year and a dishonorable discharge. This sentence was suspended and he was put on six months probation. After four months he was picked up by the military police for possession of marihuana and was dishonorably discharged.

Gehrig spent all of his cross examination in an attempt to get Caraway to admit shooting and robbing Mrs. Logan and her daughter Jeanne. To date the D. A. has not produced a signed confession by Caraway, nor has any stenographic account of police and the DA grillings contained a direct confession.

TOOK DRUGS

Caraway claimed that on the morning of the murder he drove his employer, J. M. Rose to Port Washington station, then returned to the house and began cleaning He had previously called an old army friend in Philadelphia and promised to come down that same afternoon.

"To make my burden light, I took two or three of my capsules, and I have a faint recollection of leaving the house shortly after that."

At this point, Gehrig read testimony Caraway is alleged to have given to him and detectives. In it Caraway said he went "into a house and saw two women."

"Did you fire a shot?" Gehrig snapped.

Caraway looked him in the eye for a full minute and then answered. **"I can't say I did, and I can't say I didn't. I just have a faint remembrance of hearing a shot."**

Earlier, Caraway said his first clear remembrance after taking the drugs on the morning of the murder was 2 p.m. that afternoon when he awoke on a bed in the Rose home. He then drove to a service station where he saw newspaper accounts of the murder and was concerned at his resemblance to the description of the killer.

He had found a gun and an extra amount of money in his pockets on awakening. Becoming apprehensive later in the evening, he threw away the gun, and hid the extra money in the rear of the Rose car, where "It still is now if someone hasn't removed it."

Wed. 12-11-46

The DA finished the cross-examination today. Tomorrow several doctors and psychiatrists will testify.

CARAWAY REJECTS NEGRO AS A JUROR

The Times

Veniremen Said Murderer of Mrs. Logan Was 'Beast'—1st of Race Called in Nassau

New York, N. Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Oct. 9—The first Negro to be summoned to sit on a jury in a first-degree murder case in Nassau County was rejected today by Ward Beecher Caraway, himself a Negro, at his trial in the County Court here for the murder of Mrs. William John Logan.

Caraway rejected the venireman because of a comment made by the prospective juror during questioning, according to Charles R. Weeks, chief counsel for the defense. The attorney said during a recess that the particular remark to which Caraway took objection was that the person who murdered Mrs. Logan and assaulted and shot her daughter, Marpory Jeanne, 26 years old, "was a beast and shouldn't be at large."

The defendant's rejection of the juror was in concurrence with the views of his counsel, Mr. Weeks said.

Thurs. 10-10-46

Mr. Gehrig's acceptance of the Negro juror was of particular interest in view of the fact that he had been accused by liberal groups of laxity in handling of the Ferguson ase, dealing with the fatal shooting of two of four Negro brothers in Freeport early this year. The criticism resulted in Governor Dewey ordering an inquiry into the handling of the case, at which the prosecutor was cleared.

The incident evoked interest, too, because of a suit now pending in which it is charged that no Negro has ever served on a grand jury in Nassau County, although there were many among their 14,000 population who qualify, and that their exclusion was "systematic and intentional."

Rejection of the talesman was dramatic. Both counsel for the defense huddled together in consultation with Caraway. The prosecution had accepted the venireman and Mr. Goldman had said "no challenge for cause," and it was thought the defense would be eager to have a Negro serve on the jury. Then came the rejection.

The rejected venireman was Ralph S. Bryant, 56-year-old automobile mechanic, of Roslyn Heights. He said afterward he was disappointed; he would have liked to serve.

Mr. Bryant was voluble during questioning by both the prosecution and the defense. At one point in his interrogation he said: "Color makes no difference to me." At still another he said he was against protests raised about the handling of the Ferguson case by the District Attorney, adding: "I'm a member of a white post of the American Legion and we're 100 per cent Americans."

Three more jurors were selected at today's session, bringing the total chosen thus far to ten. The jury of twelve and two alternates probably will be completed tomorrow. To date ninety-three talesmen have been called. Another panel of seventy-five was drawn this afternoon in the event the remaining panel of veniremen is exhausted.

JURY NEARLY COMPLETE

The Times

One More Alternate for Logan Trial Yet to Be Chosen

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Oct. 10—Two more jurors and an alternate were selected today in County Court here at the trial of Ward Beecher Caraway for the murder of Mrs. William John Logan, leaving one more alternate to be chosen tomorrow before the taking of direct testimony.

Selection of the final alternate was put off only because the prosecution and defense had exhausted the last panel of veniremen. Both the prosecution and the defense have been having difficulty finding prospective jurors who had not formed opinions, with the result that four panels totaling 373 names have been exhausted. A fifth panel of seventy-five has been drawn for tomorrow.

Fri. 10-11-46

One of the veniremen who was excused by the court today at his own request was Herbert E. Payne, a Negro farmhand, of Woodbury, L. I., who said he was essential to his employer.

CARAWAY DRUGGED, DEFENSE CONTENDS

The Times

Logan Killing Took Place When He Didn't Know What He Was Doing, His Lawyer Says

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 2—Ward Beecher Caraway was under the influence of a narcotic and did not know what he was doing at the time of the slaying of Mrs. William Logan, his attorney declared today in his opening address to the jury. This was the answer of defense counsel, James D. C. Murray, to the first-degree murder indictment on which the former butler-chauffeur is being tried in county court here before Judge Henry J. A. Collins.

In his opening statement District Attorney James N. Gehrig declared the shooting of Mrs. Logan, wife of a retired banker, in her home at Flower Hill on July 24 was a felony murder, which carries with it the same penalty as first-degree murder except where the jury recommends mercy), even though the murder committed may not have been part of the original plan. The prosecutor contended that Caraway was bent on robbery when he entered the Logan home and that during the commission of that crime he killed Mrs. Logan.

Mr. Gehrig sought to introduce the circumstances leading to the assault upon Marjory Jeanne Logan, daughter of the slain woman. This aspect of his opening was objected to by Mr. Murray on the ground that it was inflammatory.

Judge Collins ruled that the prosecutor could go into the shooting of Miss Logan but could not comment on the assault upon the girl. Miss Logan, a former WAC was assaulted and shot twice by her mother's assailant.

Witnesses today included Christian Siegmann Jr., a surveyor; William John Logan, husband of the slain woman, and Dr. Abraham W. Freireich, deputy medical examiner.

Mr. Logan, a retired officer of the Central Hanover National Bank and Trust Company of New York, testified that the last time he had seen his wife alive was at 9 A. M. of the day of the slaying when she and Marjory Jeanne drove with him to the railroad station.

Mr. Siegmann introduced a map of the Logan home and surrounding neighborhood and Dr. Freireich testified that Mrs. Logan died of a bullet in the forehead.

The trial will resume tomorrow at 10:30 A. M.

12-3-46

MISS LOGAN HEARD IN CARAWAY TRIAL

The Times

Points to Defendant as Her Mother's Slayer—Defense to Present Case Monday

New York, N.Y.
Sat. 12-7-46

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 6—Marjory Jeanne Logan testified today in the murder trial of Ward Beecher Caraway in the County Court here. He is accused of having slain on July 24 the witness's mother, Mrs. William John Logan, wife of a retired New York banker.

The 27-year-old former WAC spent one hour and fifteen minutes under direct examination by District Attorney James N. Gehrig and fifteen minutes under cross-examination by James D. C. Murray, counsel for the 24-year-old former butler-chauffeur.

Miss Logan, who was shot twice in the head by her mother's assailant, spoke in an audible voice, slightly high pitched, sometimes biting off her words with considerable feeling.

"Him," she snapped, pointing to Caraway, when asked who accosted her in her home. Again she replied sharply, "exactly," when requested to look at the defendant's eyes and say whether their expression was the same as on the day of the shooting. (Her mother's assailant had been described immediately after the crime as "starey-eyed," and the defense is contending temporary derangement.)

She looked directly at the defendant on these occasions, and on numerous other occasions when her testimony did not require identifying him.

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ing," there was not enough proof for a first-degree common law murder conviction. The motion was denied. 12-1-46

The case was adjourned until 10 A. M. Monday when the defense will put in its testimony.

CARAWAY TESTIFIES HE HAD TO 'CONFESS'

The Times

Called to Stand Unexpectedly, He Charges Coercion, but Also Admits Helping Find Pistol

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 4—Ward Beecher Caraway took the stand unexpectedly today at his trial in County Court here for the slaying of Mrs. William John Logan, interrupting the presentation of the prosecution's case. He remained on the witness stand for almost all of the morning session and a small part of the afternoon.

The defendant was called to the stand at the request of his counsel, James D. C. Murray, only for the limited purpose of helping to determine whether confessions ascribed to him were obtained voluntarily or involuntarily. It is Mr. Murray's contention that they were obtained involuntarily, and hence are inadmissible.

Despite the limits to which Caraway's testimony was narrowed by his counsel, District Attorney James N. Gehrig drew from him a damaging admission. Under cross-examination the 24-year-old former butler-chauffeur admitted telling authorities after his arrest where parts of a .32-caliber pistol could be found, and of going with them to a section of Flower Hill, L. I., near the Logan home, and pointing out where he had tossed the parts. Thurs 12-5-46

Defense Objections Fail

Mr. Murray objected strenuously to the admissions on the ground that they were irrevelant to the purpose for which Caraway was called to the stand, but he was overruled by Judge Henry J. A. Collins.

As a witness, Caraway was outwardly calm and self-possessed, with one exception. That was when the stock of a pistol was handed to him. The weapon was used by him in the murder of Mrs. Logan and in the shooting of her 26-year-old daughter, Marjory Jeanne. The weapon fell from his hand to the floor of the witness box after it had been given to him by an attendant. Caraway quickly retrieved the pistol stock, and his poise.

Miss Logan and her father, a retired New York banker, sat in a front-row seat. Miss Logan, who was shot twice by her mother's assailant — in the head and shoulder—frowned frequently during the defendant's testimony.

Mr. Murray called his client to the stand after cross-examining Detective John Gsell of the Nassau County Homicide Squad. It was Mr. Gsell's testimony yesterday regarding the circumstances of Caraway's alleged confessions that led today to the defendant being called.

Caraway Tells of Threats

Under direct examination by Mr. Murray, Caraway testified that during questioning in the district attorney's office, after his arrest, he was threatened with being taken "downstairs" unless he confessed; that a knife was pressed against his neck by a detective who said, "Let's kill him now and get it over with"; and that he neither slept nor ate during the twelve hours preceding his alleged confession.

During cross-examination, Mr. Gehrig sought to show no intimidation was involved when Mrs. Caraway was taken into her husbands presence with the statement that she would be held as a material witness. He asked:

"When your wife was brought into the room, didn't you say, 'Would it make any difference to you if I told them what I know about this?'

"Yes," Caraway replied.

"And she said," the prosecutor continued, "For God's sake, Wardy, if you know anything about this case why don't you tell them; please, I can't stand it any longer.'"

Caraway replied that his wife had not made this plea.

Later when Mrs. Caraway was placed on the stand by Mr. Murray, she said she made a plea for him "to tell the truth," and that she had said she could not stand being "locked up" any longer.

The prosecutor also sought to prove that no intimidation was behind the statement to Caraway that his wife would be held as a material witness if he did not confess. He offered testimony that papers necessary for holding Mrs. Caraway were being prepared when her husband allegedly confessed.

The trial will be continued at 10 A. M. tomorrow.

PISTOL PARTS SEEN BY CARAWAY JURY

The Times

Introduced at Murder Tria Despite Strong Objection of Defense Counsel

New York, N.Y.

Fri. 12-6-46

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 5—After three days' effort, District Attorney James N. Gehrig succeeded in introducing as evidence today parts of a .32 caliber pistol allegedly used by Ward Beecher Caraway in slaying Mrs. William John Logan and three sttements made by the defendant after his arrest.

In one statement Caraway told the authorities where the pistol parts could be found and declared they were from the weapon "used on the Logan job."

The prosecutor had been stymied from getting this evidence into the record by defense counsel's contention that the statements were obtained involntarily, after coercion and intimidation. The defense attorney, James D. C. Murray, had also argued that, since information leading to the finding of the pistol parts was the result of the statements, the pistol would be inadmissable as evidence, too, if the statements were found to be involuntary.

Maneuvering for 3 Days

Mr. Gehrig has been engaged for the past three days in rebutting Mr. Murray's contention before a ruling could be obtained from County Judge Henry J. A. Collins regarding the nature of the statements and if they were admissible.

Judge Collins ruled today that he would leave it to the jury to determine whether the statements were obtained voluntarily or involuntarily, and then introduction of the bitterly contested evidence was begun.

The rebuttal was ended after Caraway resumed the stand and identified the detective who, the defendant alleges, threatened to kill him with a knife unless he confessed. The detective, George Erdody, previously had denied that he had made the threat or had pressed a knife against Caraway's neck.

Under cross-examination by Mr. Murray, Erdody readily acknowledged that he carried a pocket knife which he took from his pocket. After it was identified by Caraway as the one used to intimidate him, it was placed in the record as the defense's first exhibit.

Important Statement Today

Four statements were obtained from Caraway, but only three were read today. The fourth, and most important, will be read tomorrow.

Before the contested evidence was read into the record defense counsel and the prosecutor agreed to delete from the statement's any reference to the assault on Marjory Jeanne Logan, 26-year-old daughter of the slain woman. The fourth statement was the only one containing such references.

Miss Logan probably will take the stand tomorrow as the prosecutor's star witness. She was in court again today, sitting beside her father, a retired New York banker, and her sister.

Caraway 3d Degree Admitted

New York, N.Y.

By ARNOLD BLOM AND JAMES PARLATORE

Defense Attorney James D. C. Murray scored a telling point yesterday in Nassau County Court in his fang-and-claw battle to save Ward Beecher Caraway from the electric chair for the murder of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan.

Pounding away at his thesis that Caraway was a drug addict and hence irresponsible at the time of the slaying July 24, Murray showed that Caraway took his own sweet time about leaving the scene instead of running away as fast as he could, as a normal man might be expected to do after committing murder. Wed. 12-4-46

The witness whose testimony brought this out was Theodore Klick, a Manhasset painter who was working July 24 on the home of Charles Sperber, on Bonnie Heights Road about a quarter-mile from the Logans' home in Flower Hill.

Klick testified that he heard a maid in the Sperber house scream, and that he then saw a girl—Marjory Jeanne Logan—covered with blood. He came down to the ground, put her in a car, and started driving along Bonnie Heights Road to a doctor. Walking along the road—and walking slowly—he saw a man, who he said was Caraway, and at that time Caraway was only about 150 feet from the entrance to the Logan driveway.

Under cross-examination Klick estimated that from the time of the scream to the time he put Miss Logan in his car was ten minutes. Murray said afterward that he intended to prove that about 25 minutes had elapsed from the time Miss Logan was shot and the time Klick saw Caraway.

But in that 25 minutes, Murray's argument runs, Caraway had got only a few hundred feet from the Logan home. Murray will stress that Caraway's failure to flee as rapidly as possible proves he was not sane at the time.

An uncomfortable witness yesterday was Detective John Gsell, of the Nassau County Homicide Squad, who suffered visibly under Murray's relentless cross-questioning. Gsell was forced to admit that, for at least the last 12 of the first 18 hours Caraway was in custody, he was not allowed to eat, sleep, or even lie down. Gsell also admitted reluctantly that Caraway had been told that if he didn't talk his wife Marie would be jailed as a material witness even though, as Gsell was compelled to admit, the police knew she was entirely blameless and had no connection with or knowledge of the crime.

Gsell testified that Caraway "offered" to show police where he had thrown the framework of the .32 revolver used in the slaying, and Murray demanded to know how come the "offer" was made. It was then that the story of Caraway's enforced period without food or sleep was brought to light. The revolver mechanism, found where Caraway led police, was introduced in evidence along with two bullets, one removed from Mrs. Logan's head and the other from Miss Logan's brain cavity.

Gsell denied bringing Mrs. Caraway in to headquarters and then, under Murray's prodding, said he didn't remember, and finally admitted he did bring her in.

"Your purpose, then," Murray hammered away, "was to induce fear and terror in Caraway to get a confession?"

Gsell replied that he was acting under orders of a superior and didn't know what the purpose was. At this point court adjourned until 10 a.m. today, with Gsell scheduled to resume the stand for further cross-examination.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig made several attempts to introduce in evidence photographs of the second floor of the Logans' home, including a picture of Miss Logan's bedroom, where Caraway allegedly raped and robbed her, but Murray blocked him each time on the ground that anything that happened on the second floor was not part of the indictment.

Miss Logan, who may testify today, was again in court yesterday wearing a two-piece gray suit, black gloves, and a blue bandanna around her head. In her lapel was her WAC discharge button. Seated beside her in the front row was her father, William John Logan, retired banker. 12-4-46

Other witnesses yesterday included Mrs. Susan Delabarre, the Logan housekeeper, who heard the shots and found her mistress dying; Dr. Edward C. Jessup of Roslyn, the Logan family doctor, who pronounced Mrs. Logan dead; Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Theodore Curphey, who performed the autopsy on Mrs. Logan; and Dr. James L. Pool, Manhattan specialist, who operated on Miss Logan.

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (New York)

Caraway, Under Hypnosis, Blamed Sleeping Pills for Logan Killing

PM New York, N.Y. Mon. 10-14-46

The trial of the 23-year-old butler, Ward Beecher Caraway, for the slaying of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, which starts today in Nassau County Court, may reveal one of the most bizarre backgrounds to murder in recent criminal history. The defendant's life may hinge on the question of whether sleeping pills, lately involved in many dramatic suicides, can also serve as a stimulus to homicide.



Deutsch

Caraway was examined recently by two New York psychiatrists, Drs. Richard H. Hoffmann and Israel Strauss, at the request of defense counsel Charles R. Weeks, former District Attorney of Nassau County. The first accounts told by Caraway were so contradictory and confusing that the psychiatrists decided to try hypnosis to pry the real story from him.

Hypnosis, properly administered, acts upon the human personality in much the same way as sodium pentothal and other "truth drugs," such as was used by psychiatrists to wring the truth from the young Chicago slayer, William Heirens. Through a process that is still but dimly understood, it removes the mental defense mechanisms and inhibitions piled up in the recesses of the mind and nervous system and opens the road to suppressed remembrances. It is not always effective; some people are not amenable to hypnosis; some may be satisfactorily hypnotized on certain occasions, not on others.

Drs. Strauss and Hoffman employed an expert to put Caraway (with the latter's consent) under hypnosis in the Nassau County jail. When careful tests proved that the man was definitely in a hypnotic state, they started to question him, especially about the events of July 24, the day of the murder.

Here is the story that Caraway told and which he repeated essentially unchanged several times later in a normal, non-hypnotic state:

Caraway, during two years of military service (part of it spent overseas) worked as a ward aide in an Army hospital. He had access to the medicine chest containing barbiturates (a group of drugs comprising the active ingredients of most sleeping pills). He started to take one or two himself as sedatives against toothaches or other pains.

He found, to his surprise, that these pills, instead of making him drowsy or sleepy, actually made him feel "high all over." They gave him the same pick-up that he had experienced earlier in occasional smoking of marihuana. He took them often to dispel moods of depression. By the time he got out of the Army he had built up a stockpile of more than 500 barbiturate pills pilfered from Army hospitals.

Caraway was dishonorably discharged from the Army a year ago, because, he says, he had taken a radio and a rifle from an acquaintance's home and pawned them for $30 in retaliation for the loss of his wallet containing $38 in this friend's home.

After his discharge, Caraway seemed to adjust splendidly to civilian life; he had a devoted wife, a good butler's job paying $300 a month and board, and was well liked by his employers. He continued to take the barbiturate pills to get that "high" feeling. On the fateful day, July 24, he swallowed a couple of pills. They apparently packed a terrific wallop this time.

"I felt high, good all over, like I owned the whole world," he said. "It was just like walking on air."

Caraway went to his room. There, in his open bureau drawer, he espied his gun. He took it—"it just made me feel even better," he said. Putting the gun in his pocket, he walked out of the house, and strolled down the road in this "high" or euphoric mood. He was wandering down the road aimlessly when he encountered a side road leading to the hidden Logan house. Without knowing why, he turned, spotted the house, and strode up to it. The door was ajar, and he walked in.

"I didn't know what I'd find in that house," he told the psychiatrists under hypnosis. "I didn't know who lived there: I didn't know if it was filled with men. I didn't know who I'd meet inside. I was out for adventure."

Inside, in the parlor, sat Mrs. Logan. Caraway pointed his gun at her and asked her to give him "some money." Mrs. Logan called upstairs to her daughter, Jeanne, to throw down ten dollars. The daughter, unaware of what was going on, threw a ten-dollar bill down the well of the staircase. Mrs. Logan picked it up, handed it to Caraway, asked him to leave, and started for the stairs.

"Don't go up there," Caraway is reported to have said.

Mrs. Logan took a step, and was shot dead with a bullet from Caraway's gun.

"Why did you kill her?" Caraway was asked.

"I just don't know. I wasn't scared; I pulled the trigger."

Caraway, according to the statement made in the hypnotic trance, then mounted the staircase, gun in hand, and accosted Miss Logan on the upper floor. He said he wanted more money. Miss Logan emptied a purse, and handed over $73. Caraway stuffed the money in his pocket; he rejected some jewelry that lay around. (*I will have to omit from this account Caraway's story concerning the alleged rape charge.*—A.D.)

The nightmarish, senseless tragedy continued when Caraway, in spite of meeting no resistance from Miss Logan, fired two bullets into her, hitting her in the neck and face. The girl fell, got up and ran down the stairs, with Caraway following her slowly. He had two more bullets in his revolver, but for some reason he is unable to explain, he made no effort to stop the girl. He brushed past her and got out of the door first, and started up the road. The "high" feeling had worn away, and now he felt "very scared" and sober. Mon. 10-14-46

Whether Caraway was legally insane or not at the time of the murder will have to be determined by the jury. Important in the development of medico-legal and psychiatric practice is the problem of the role, however rare, of barbiturates in criminal behavior. The definition of legal insanity covers merely the problem of whether the defendant knew the nature, quality and wrongness of the alleged act, at the time he committed it. Of interest to psychiatrists are the questions: Did the act make sense? Caraway apparently needed no money at the time he entered the Logan home: why did he demand money at gun's-point? Why did he kill Mrs. Logan, needlessly? Why did he shoot Miss Logan for no apparent self-protective motive? What stopped him from killing her, or otherwise checking her flight when she ran out?

It is a strange truth that barbiturate sleeping pills sometimes have an opposite effect on certain people than sleep or drowsiness. Drs. Goodman and Gilman, in their standard textbook on drugs, *Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, write: "In some persons, barbiturates repeatedly produce excitement rather than depression, and the patient usually appears to be inebriated. Like other non-analgesic hypnotic drugs, the barbiturates when given in the presence of pain may cause restlessness, excitement and even delirium."

It has long been a practice, in some sections of New York, for gangsters and even adolescent delinquents to use barbiturate pills—known as "goof balls," "yellow jacks," etc.—to get "high." These pills are generally dropped into beer to produce a euphoric effect. The New York City Health Dept. not long ago expressed great concern over this particular misuse of sleeping pills by adolescents, pointing out that they were being obtained at some drug stores without prescription.

Some people may find it hard to swallow the "sleeping-pill solution" to the Logan murder case. But the whole tragic incident is so lacking in sense and motive that one wonders if there isn't truth in what Ward Beecher Caraway told the psychiatrists in a hypnotic trance.

CARAWAY JURY SELECTED

Times Herald, N.Y. Sat. 10-12-46

Last Alternate Chosen to Hear Murder Trial at Mineola

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Oct. 11—Following selection today of the final juror, an alternate, the trial of Ward Beecher Caraway was adjourned until 10 A. M. Monday, when the taking of direct testimony will begin. Caraway is being tried in the county court here on a first degree murder indictment charging him with the fatal shooting of Mrs. William John Logan, wife of a retired New York banker, in her Flower Hill home on July 24.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig said he probably would call Marjory Jeanne Logan, 26-year-old former Wac, Tuesday or Wednesday. Miss Logan, daughter of the slain woman, was assaulted and shot by the same man who murdered her mother. She is to be the prosecution's principal witness.

The final juror was the 142d talesman to be examined. Five panels totaling 448 names were drawn before the jury of twelve and two alternates was chosen. All the jurors are married.

Freeport Case Haunts Gehrig in Caraway Trial

Daily Worker, N.Y. Wed. 10-9-46

By John Hudson Jones

The Ferguson case of Freeport is haunting James N. Gehrig, Nassau County District Attorney, in his opening statement in the prosecution of Ward Beecher Caraway for the murder of Mrs. Marjorie Logan, **died in the handling of the Ferguson case. You wouldn't let this** Each talesman questioned by Gehrig is asked, **"Do you know anything about the Ferguson case? Do you know Stanley Faulkner? Are you a member of any group or association that grew out of this case?"**

Gehrig explains to the talesmen, the spotlight on the vicious influ- **"Certain groups and associations charged the District Attorney and the Grand Jury with being preju-**

Negro Man Indicted For Slaying, Assault

MINEOLA, N. Y., Aug. 15.—(AP)—

County Judge Henry J. A. Collins ordered an innocent plea entered on Caraway's behalf after the 23-year-old Charlotte, N. C., Negro made no response when the indict-

When the killing took place July 24, most of the daily papers threw it on the front pages with screaming headlines to the effect that a "starey-eyed Negro" did it. Gehrig took over and personally directed the man-hunt.

ment was read yesterday. Caraway was arraigned on the charge and returned to jail pending trial, expected next month.

Miss Logan is convalescing from bullet wounds in the head and neck.

disqualified because of admitted "preconceived and fixed opinions" about Caraway's guilt obtained from reading the daily press.

A Dun & Bradstreet employee, 24, most of the daily papers threw it on the front pages with screaming headlines to the effect that a "starey-eyed Negro" did it. Gehrig took over and personally directed the man-hunt.

"followed the case in the World-Telegram and decided that the guilty man had been arrested."

"I read all the papers," a Jews distributor declared, "so I get all kinds of ideas in my head. You got to get ideas in your head if you read the papers."

Wall Street broker, court-appointed counsel for however, felt he could **"forget it** and weigh the evidence fairly," prominent Mrs. Marjory Church Logan last July 24 at her fashionable Flower Hill home.

The indictment covered only the slaying but Caraway also is held in the wounding Mrs. Logan's daughter, Marjory Jeanne, a 26-year-old ex-Wac sergeant,

Caraway Went 'Wild' With Drugs, Says Wife

PM New York, N.Y.
Tues. 12-10-46

Ward Beecher Caraway, who claims he was under the influence of barbiturates when he robbed and murdered Mrs. Marjory Church Logan on July 24, frequently took dope which made him "queer and silly," according to witnesses testifying at his murder trial yesterday.

Three boyhood friends of the accused butler and his wife and mother told of colored capsules—they called them "gage—dope"—which he took almost nightly.

Carlos M. Hollingsworth, superintendent of the supply room of Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, N. C., testified that Caraway had access to barbiturates (in red, white, blue and yellow capsules) while employed in the hospital from February until May of this year. Hollingsworth said Caraway could not have taken more than 50 capsules—later he said 50 of each color—without it showing up in the weekly inventory.

Caraway's friends, wife and mother, however, testified to his having many more.

According to Marie Caraway, his wife, he took three capsules each night after dinner and they made him "go wild." She had not told the district attorney about the capsules, she said, because she was ashamed.

Mrs. Ila Mae Barnes, Caraway's mother, said she once found 50 capsules in his coat pocket which she gave to her husband to destroy. When she learned Caraway was "dealing in drugs," she testified, she told him to leave her home. He and his wife subsequently moved to the house of friends.

Thomas Grier, 21, of Charlotte, told of meeting Caraway last Spring, shortly after his discharge from the Army.

"He asked me if I ever had any gage," Grier said. "He told me he had some and I asked him for a few. He gave me six or more." Whenever he saw Caraway after that, Grier testified, Caraway gave him about 15 yellow capsules. When asked what effect the drug had on Caraway, Grier said:

"Well, it would make him queer and silly. He would laugh at things that weren't funny."

David R. Shipman, 25, of Charlotte, said that once while he was serving with Caraway in the Army at Ft. Leonard Wood, Miss., Caraway asked if he ever "smoked weeds"—marijuana. Caraway told him he had a friend who could get them.

Back in Charlotte after his discharge, Shipman said, Caraway gave him several colored capsules almost every day and took two or three a night himself.

Alpha Stewart, 23, of Charlotte, another boyhood friend, described Caraway's reaction to the capsules:

"The moment we entered some place, he was calm," Stewart said. He would laugh every now and then, nothing unusual, only normal. But after he had taken those drugs he became very jolly, as if something had struck him and he jumped with felicity and then he would stop all of a sudden. He seemed to be in deep meditation."

Caraway's mother, neatly dressed in a black suit, also testified about his childhood. She said it was very unhappy because his father often beat her in his presence. (She divorced Caraway's father in 1933 and in 1936 married Barnes). She said that before Caraway went in the Army he was always courteous to her but that when he came out he was "nasty, impudent, impolite and discourteous." He was also nasty to his wife, she said, and once choked her.

As she spoke of this, Caraway's wife, sitting in the first row of spectators' seats, hid her face in her hands.

Tues. 12-10-46

Later, Mrs. Caraway testified that both she and Mrs. J. M. Rose, Caraway's employer at the time of the murder, had spoken to him about it because the description of the killer fitted him so well.

Counsel Ill, Caraway's Trial Delayed

PM New York, N.Y.
Tues. 10-15-46

By Tom O'Connor

The big ructions of the Caraway murder trial—the legal tussle over whether the goings-on of Ward Beecher Caraway and Marjory Jeanne Logan in the upstairs master bedroom last July 24 are fit matters for the jury to hear about—have been put off for at least a week.

Charles R. Weeks, court-appointed chief of defense counsel, collapsed yesterday in the Nassau County Courthouse at Mineola just before he was to deliver his opening address to the jury.

A physician was called and Weeks was taken to the hospital. Later is was announced that he was suffering from bronchial asthma and was forced to withdraw from the case "because to continue would endanger his health and possibly his life." Judge Henry J. A. Collins accordingly postponed the trial for a week, leaving in abeyance the question of whether the same jury will continue to sit when the trial is resumed.

Earlier, the battle lines had been drawn between opposing counsel over the admissibility of testimony on what happened between Caraway and Miss Logan, 26-year-old ex-Wac, after Caraway had shot and killed Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, the offense for which he is being tried.

Gehrig, in his preliminary statement to the jury, drew no objection from the defense until he began to describe what the State would attempt to prove happened after Caraway went upstairs in the Logan home in Flower Hill.

"Marjory heard a noise downstairs like a lamp falling," Gehrig was saying. "She started down the stairs to see what the trouble was. Caraway came bounding up the stairs, revolver in hand, and—"

At that point Weeks interrupted to enter his objection to any statement which would tend to prove a crime other than the one in the indictment—the murder of Mrs. Logan. Judge Collins overruled the objection. Gehrig went on to describe Caraway's actions in obtaining more money from Miss Logan, first from her mother's purse in her mother's sitting room, then from her wallet in her own bedroom.

From there, Gehrig said, Caraway forced the girl to go through a connecting bathroom into the master bedroom, shared by Mr. and Mrs. Logan.

"Instructions were given to her at that time," Gehrig said. She complied with these instructions and submitted to his—"

"Your Honor!" Weeks interrupted. "I object to any—"

"Commands," finished Gehrig, drawing the word out and looking pleased with himself.

"It is all too evident what the district attorney has in mind," said Weeks. "I move for a mistrial on the ground such implications are inflammatory."

Judge Collins denied the motion.

Judge Studies Mistrial On Caraway Evidence

PM

The trial of Ward Beecher Caraway for the July 24 murder of Mrs. Marjory Logan may end in a mistrial today, necessitating a fresh

Attorney Stricken, Caraway Trial Halts

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Tues. 10-15-46

By John Hudson Jones

MINEOLA, N. Y., Oct. 14.—The trial of Ward Beecher Caraway for the murder of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan stopped abruptly today, when chief defense counsel Charles Weeks suffered a severe asthmatic attack.

The sudden illness occurred during a ten-minute recess directly after Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig had opened the prosecution.

Caraway is being tried on first-degree murder charges.

At the time of the killing, July 24, Mrs. Logan's daughter, Jeanne, was also shot and allegedly raped, but this is not a part of the present indictment.

Today, however, Gehrig began alluding to the rape charges. Weeks objected on the ground it was "inflammatory."

Judge Henry J. A. Collins overruled the objection.

A second time Gehrig referred to the incident involving Miss Logan and again Weeks objected, only to be overruled by Judge Collins. He instructed the jury to "overlook" Gehrig's statements.

In his statement Gehrig declared Caraway robbed Miss Logan of about $40, but at the time of the killing, his office issued a report claiming the killer had taken $110 in which sum was a $50 bill.

Today a reporter asked Gehrig, "Is it true Caraway has not yet signed the confession you have?"

Gehrig answered, "I don't see why you people keep on asking that question. It doesn't make any difference whether he signed it or not."

Weeks' physician, Dr. W. C. Atwell of Great Neck, informed Judge Collins, "If Mr. Weeks continues the case it will endanger his life."

Judge Collins accepted this statement and postponed the trial for one week, during which time a new chief defense counsel will be appointed by the court.

The present jury is still qualified, and whether or not a mistrial will be declared depends entirely upon the new counsel. The trial will be resumed next Monday, Oct. 21.

Novel Point

The Judge said the point was a novel one, "such as has never come to my attention before," and requested counsel for both sides to submit any precedents they might be able to find. He will consider them, along with his own overnight findings, before deciding this morning whether to continue with the trial.

The disputed testimony came from two men who used to work in a Trenton laundry with Caraway. Gehrig attempted to have both Frank Moore and Earl Allen tell of Caraway's supposed fondness for marijuana and of an alleged suggestion on his part that they commit a bank holdup. Some of the testimony reached the ears of the jury before the jury was withdrawn from the courtroom.

Murray quickly objected that the State had no right to introduce new evidence after completing its case, and demanded to know why these witnesses had been held back. Gehrig explained that he had discovered them only at the last minute.

Experts on Stand

Otherwise, the most important testimony of the day in the jammed little Long Island courtroom came from two medical experts put on the stand in Caraway's defense. Dr. Mortimer Danzer, a Brooklyn expert on narcotics, and Dr. Thomas S. Cusack, a psychiatrist also from Brooklyn. Both said the barbituates which Caraway says he took an hour or so before Mrs. Logan was killed could have deprived him of his powers of reason.

"A person under the influence of any of those four varieties of barbituate could not premeditate or deliberate a crime," Dr. Danzer testified.

District Attorney Gehrig ranted at the physicians on cross-examination, but could not budge them from their position that the four drugs, particularly the nembutal, sometimes impaired a person's mental faculties.

Dr. Danzer said nembutal often makes a man lose his judgment, behave like an animal without inhibitions.

Earlier in the day, Caraway's mother, Mrs. Ila Mae Barnes, resumed the stand to complete her examination undertaken the day

said that the young
r, James, from whom
divorced, was a violent
who used to beat her,
she was pregnant with
er.

12-12-46
Ward Beecher.

Caraway Gets Death Penalty In Society Matron's Murder

PM New York, N.Y. Sun. 12-15-46

By JOHN K. WEISS *and* JAMES PARLATORE

At 10:33 p.m. Friday night, Ward Beecher Caraway heard the verdict: "Murder in the first degree." Those words meant the electric chair.

Caraway was cold and calm, his face expressionless. His pregnant wife, Marie, screamed and collapsed. Attendants carried her out of the Nassau County courtroom.

The jury took a little more than three hours to find Caraway, the 22-year-old Negro ex-GI, guilty of the murder of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, Long Island Society matron. There was no recommendation for mercy, which makes the death penalty mandatory. Formal sentencing was set for Wednesday.

The jury had retired at 5:35 and shortly after adjourned for supper.

As the twelve men filed from the court room, three long speeches still ringing in their ears, two sets of eyes slowly turned and then turned back.

One set belonged to Caraway, who had sat impassively all day, scarcely a muscle in his thin face moving as his own attorney asked for life imprisonment and as the District Attorney asked the electric chair.

The other set belonged to immaculately dressed and quiet William J. Logan, a widower since last July 24 when his wife was brutally slain by Caraway in their Flower Hill home during a robbery. Caraway's defense was that he was out of his head from the effects of barbiturate drugs.

It was apparent to everyone in the Nassau County courtroom that another case, the Freeport case, was fresh in the minds of the opposing attorneys as well as the presiding judge on the final day of the trial.

Judge Henry J. A. Collins, in his 105-minute charge to the jury, said over and over again, "You are to consider your verdict, but you are not to consider whether your verdict will be popular of whether it will please or displease anyone. You are to find the truth regardless of the consequences."

Just prior to this, James D. C. Murray, in summing up in behalf of Caraway, had pleaded with the jury, "Don't you think I know the hatred against this defendant in Nassau County? Passion and prejudice . . . is strong, and you need courage to come up with a just verdict." 12-15-46

In his two-hour summation District Attorney James H. Gehrig attempted to show that the Logan slaying was premeditated and deliberate. He referred to the incident as "almost a perfect crime."

WEEKS WILL DEFEND MRS. LOGAN'S SLAYER

Times Newsday Hall Sat. 8-17-46

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Aug. 16—Through a compulsory court order, Charles R. Weeks, noted District Attorney of Nassau County from 1917 to 1925, was appointed by County Court Judge J. A. Collins today as defense attorney for Ward Beecher Caraway, who is under a first-degree murder indictment in the killing of Mrs. William John Logan of Flower Hill on July 24.

Only last Friday Mr. Weeks indicated his attitude about the case involving the 23-year-old defendant, Army veteran and former butler-chauffeur employed by Joseph M. Rose, a neighbor of the Logan family. Mr. Weeks had a conference with Joseph Grier, an attorney from Charlotte, N. C., who represents the defendant's wife and his mother, after which the former District Attorney said he was "not interested in the case."

Despite his attitude, Mr. Weeks is preparing to go to the bar of justice as a good lawyer. One of his principal efforts will be, he said, to establis hthe state of mind of the defendant. 8-17-46

In this connection he plans to consult Dr. Richard H. Hoffman of 87 Park Avenue, New York City, who has appeared in the Mineola Court House on several occasions as examining psychiatrist for the State.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig, who will prosecute, has said he would be ready for the trial by Sept. 9, but Mr. Weeks said today he "most certainly" will ask for a postponement.

Jury Of Married Men To Try Accused Negro

The News Birmingham Fri 10-11-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Oct. 11—(AP)—An all-white jury of married men will try Ward Beecher Caraway, 23-year-old Negro butler-chauffeur charged with first degree murder in the slaying of socially prominent Mrs. Marjory Church Logan.

The 12th juror was picked yesterday, completing four days of examination of veniremen. He was the 111th person to be examined for duty in the trial.

Caraway, a former resident of Charlotte, N. C., is accused of slaying Mrs. Logan last July 24 in the 52-year-old matron's fashionable home at Flower Hill on Long Island's North Shore.

Mrs. Logan's daughter, Marjory Jeanne, expected to be the prosecutions chief witness, told police that Caraway shot and attacked her after killing her mother.

CARAWAY JURY CHOSEN

All-Male Group to Try the Murder Suspect at Mineola

The Times

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Nov. 27—Selection of a jury in the trial of Ward Beecher Caraway was completed today and court was adjourned until Monday when the taking of direct testimony will begin. The jury of twelve and two alternates is all male. One hundred and seventy-nine veniremen were examined before it was completed.

Caraway, former butler-chauffeur, is being tried in county court here on a first-degree murder indictment charging him with the fatal shooting of Mrs. William Logan, wife of a retired New York banker, July 24 in her home at Flower Hill, L. I. Thurs. 11-28-46

The defendant was recovered today from an attack of gastritis he suffered yesterday and which resulted in his being taken to Meadowbrook Hospital.

Marjorie Logan Accuses Butler; State Rests Caraway Case

PM New York, N.Y. Sun. 12-8-46

By ARNOLD BLOM *and* JAMES PARLATORE

Marjory Jeanne Logan sits down in the witness' chair in Nassau County Court. She is wearing a blue tailored suit, a white polka-dotted blouse, brown cuban-heeled shoes. She has on no makeup except a touch of lipstick. In her lapel is her WAC discharge button. There's a blue bandanna over her brown hair, which is cut short because of an operation to remove a bullet from her brain cavity.

She is not beautiful, but she is not unattractive. She is the wholesome, athletic type. She is a little nervous at first and she keeps tapping the fingers of her right hand on the arm of the witness chair. Occasionally she glances at Ward Beecher Caraway, the butler-chauffeur who murdered her mother and then shot Miss Logan herself after allegedly robbing and raping her.

She speaks in a clear, well-modulated voice in answer to questions from District Attorney James N. Gehrig in the packed courtroom in Mineola.

Yes, she was in the WAC. She served 15 months overseas. She last saw her mother alive, that morning of July 24 in the Logans' home in Flower Hill, when her mother called upstairs for some money. She went to her room and got a $5 bill and five $1 bills.

Q. (by Gehrig). After you got the money what did you do with it? A. I went to the head of the stairs and threw it down to her. (*Here her voice faltered and she almost collapsed.*)

Q. Anything else? A. I noticed that Mother looked very strange. As I started to go back to my room I heard a crash and started downstairs.

Q. Whom did you meet? A. (*Bitterly, pointing to Caraway*) I met him coming up the stairs.

Q. What did the defendant say to you? A. He pushed me into my room and said, 'Give me all the money you've got.' I told him I didn't think I had any more money. Then he said, 'Get the money out of the green purse.' I went in my mother's room and got the rest of the money out of her purse. I don't know how much it was. Then Caraway pushed me back in my own room. He wanted more money. I offered him my jewelry but he refused it. He said he wanted money.

Q. Where did you go next? A. I went to the master bedroom. I was there about 10 minutes.

Q. Now eliminate any details, as directed by the court, and tell us where you were. Did you find yourself on the bed?

This question was barred, on objection of Defense Attorney James D. C. Murray. (Judge Henry J. A. Collins is allowing Gehrig to present testimony about Caraway's shooting and alleged robbery of Miss Logan but is forbidding any mention of her alleged rape, and Gehrig is going as far as he can to bring in that issue, although the indictment charges Caraway only with the murder of Mrs. Logan.)

Q. What happened to you in relation to the gun? A. I was shot twice (*she pointed to her right eye, under which a scar was still visible, and to the back of her neck, below her right ear. Caraway covered his face with his bony hands.*)

Miss Logan told about running to a neighbor's house for help, and then Murray began questioning her. He was gentle, almost fatherly.

Q. Was there anything particularly characteristic about his (*Caraway's*) eyes? A. They were starey eyes.

Q. Do you mind looking at the defendant's eyes and telling me if they look like that now? A. (*Very bitterly*) They look exactly now like they were then.

Miss Logan's testimony was the breathless high spot of the Friday court session. She was on the stand from 2:10 to 3:42, after which court recessed until 10 a.m. Monday.

Earlier in the day Gehrig took an hour and 39 minutes to read into the record a fourth statement made by Caraway. Seventeen questions and answers were omitted from the statement, presumably because they referred to the alleged rape. The statement, as read by Gehrig, included these lines:

Q. What was your purpose in going to the (*Logan*) home? A. That I don't know, sir. I've been trying to figure that out myself.

Q. What was the reason for firing it (*the gun*) at her (*Mrs. Logan*)? A. I don't know, sir.

Q. You haven't any reason? A. No, sir.

Q. Wasn't it your purpose in going there to get some money?

A. I don't actually know the purpose myself, sir.

Q. As you went upstairs did you see anybody?

A. Yes, sir, the younger lady.

Q. Did you say anything to her?

A. I imagine I did.

Q. And what was that?

A. That I don't know.

Q. Didn't you ask her for money?

A. I might have.

Caraway then recalled that Miss Logan gave him some money.

Q. After you put the money in your pocket what did you do?

A. I remember firing the gun twice.

In the last part of the statement Caraway said he had been well treated and that he made the confession so that an innocent person would not be charged with the crime.

At one point, when Miss Logan was on the stand, the jury was excused and Judge Collins made a little speech to both Gehrig and Murray about the alleged rape. Then he looked at Miss Logan and said: Sun. 12-8-46

"I feel it my duty to instruct the witness that nothing must be brought out regarding the alleged rape. Is that understood?"

Miss Logan nodded and the jury returned. Judge Collins leaned over to Miss Logan and inquired: "You understand what I said?" and she replied, "Yes, Your Honor, I do."

After Miss Logan's testimony Gehrig rested the prosecution's case. Judge Collins denied Murray's motion to eliminate from the jury's consideration the verdict of first degree murder. Murray arguing that the evidence showed there was no premeditation. However, the judge said that Murray could make the same motion after the charge to the jury.

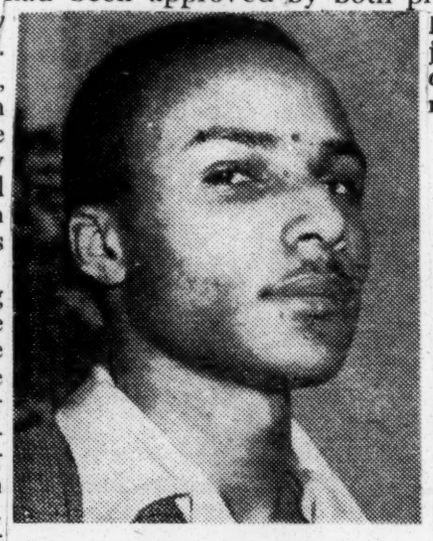
Two Caraway Jurors Chosen; Defense Based on Insanity Plea

PM New York, N. Y. Tues. 10-8-46

By TOM O'CONNOR *and* JAMES PARLATORE

It appeared today that at least a week will be required to pick the 12 jurors who will decide whether Ward Beecher Caraway, 23-year-old butler for a wealthy Long Island family, was legally insane when he shot and killed Mrs. Marjory Church Logan last July 24.

The trial began yesterday in Mineola County Court, with Judge Henry A. J. Collins sitting. By day's end only two jurors had been approved by both prosecution and defense. Seems as if most everybody in Nassau County already has an opinion on the case.



Ward B. Caraway
His trial begins

Caraway, a slight, deferential, seemingly shy young man from North Carolina, has only one hope of beating the chair: for the jury to believe the psychiatrist who will say he is legally insane rather than the psychiatrists who will say he is legally sane.

As far as the fact of the killing is concerned, there seems little chance for argument. The police have his signed confession that he put a bullet from a .32 caliber nickel-plated revolver into the middle of Mrs. Logan's forehead, after entering her 20-room mansion in Flower Hill bent upon robbery. And the State will have as its star witness Mrs. Logan's daughter, Marjory Jeanne, 26, who has positively identified Caraway as the man who killed her mother and then shot her. Police also quoted Miss Logan, a former WAC T-4, as saying that Caraway raped her before shooting her; but Caraway has denied that, and testimony about it may not be admitted in this trial.

At any rate, the trial will hinge on psychiatric testimony. The defense, which is being conducted by Charles R. Weeks of Great Neck, a former Nassau County prosecutor, has announced it will call as a witness Dr. Richard Hoffman, a Park Avenue psychiatrist who has testified in numerous trials. Hoffman has often been called by Prosecutor James N. Gehrig to combat insanity defenses.

Gehrig will rely this time on Dr. Perry Lichtenstein, medical advisor to the New York district attorney, and Dr. William V. P. Garretson.

Yesterday's session in the tiny courtroom in Mineola Courthouse was slow and soporific. Twenty-four jurors were examined, 16 of them men. All but five were excused for cause. One was peremptorily challenged by the prosecution and two by the defense. The two who were accepted were George Bolch, a contracting carpenter from Oceanside, and Charles B. Honecker, an assistant bank manager from Hillside Heights. Bolch, first chosen, becomes foreman.

Caraway, clad in neatly-pressed sports clothes with an open-collared shirt, seemed to take a lively interest in the selection of jurors. He conferred with Weeks about almost every juror. Once he smled faintly. It was when Gehrig asked a prospective juror:

"You wouldn't get the notion that a man must be crazy to commit a crime of that kind, would you?"

The juror wouldn't.

Gehrig seemed touchy on the matter of possible charges of racial bias. Caraway is a Negro, and Gehrig has been accused by various civil rights organizations of joining with police officers and judges in denying Nassau County Negroes equal protection of the laws—notably in the case involving the killing of the Ferguson brothers by a policeman in Freeport.

Several times Gehrig asked talesmen if they had "read anything about the Ferguson case" or were "sure they could show no racial discrimination." He asked one juror if he "had any feeling against the Grand Jury or District Attorney who were charged with bias in the Ferguson case."

There is pending in Nassau County a court action charging that Negroes have been "systematically and intentionally" excluded from jury service. Court attaches and veteran reporters at the trial yesterday couldn't remember ever having seen a Negro on a Nassau jury. However, there is one Negro on the present panel of 119 talesmen.

Chauffeur Confesses Logan Murder

Times-Dispatch Richmond, Va. Sat. 8-3-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Aug. 2—(AP)—A 23-year-old Negro butler and chauffeur confessed today, Police Captain Stuyvesant Pinnell said, to slaying socially prominent Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, 52, and attacking and wounding her daughter, Marjory, 26, nine days ago.

Pinnell, who is chief of Nassau County detectives, said the man, Ward Beecher Caraway, had been booked on a charge of murder. The district attorney's office said arraignment would follow after the oral statement had been put in writing.

Caraway was taken to [illegible] Hospital where Miss Logan [illegible] covering from wounds in the face and neck.

Assistant District Attorney Philip Huntington, present at the scene, said the former WAC sergeant looked calmly at Caraway and said: "He is the man. There is no question about it."

Soon after police said the statement had been made, Caraway was taken to Flower Hill, where the Logan home is located, and assisted detectives in finding two of three sections of a revolver. Pinnell quoted Caraway as saying he had thrown the weapon away after the crimes.

Identifies Gun Parts

Describing the finding of the gun parts, Huntington said "the Negro told me when we had picked up two parts of the gun—I held the parts—'These are parts of the gun with which I shot Mrs. Logan.'"

Caraway's arrest followed a police check of servants in the homes of neighbors of the Logans. The check led them yesterday to the Eastern Long Island village of Southold where Mr. and Mrs. James M. Rose, Flower Hill residents, have a Summer home.

Police said Caraway resembled the description they had and when he failed to establish an alibi for July 24 they brought him to Mineola.

Pinnell said Caraway also was identified by Theodore Klick, house painter, who drove Miss Logan to a doctor's office after she ran screaming and bleeding from her home. During that ride Klick had said Miss Logan pointed to a Negro walking along the road and said, "That's the man who murdered my mother."

District Attorney James M. Gehrif said no attempt had been made to learn the motive for the shooting.

Miss Logan had said a Negro entered the house and demanded money from her mother. She said she tossed $10 down the stairs. Then, Miss Logan added, the man ran up the stairs, seized a roll of bills from her and at gunpoint forced her into a bedroom where he raped her and then shot her twice.

Employed July 1

Pinnell quoted Caraway as saying that after the crime he returned to the Rose home, a mile and one-half from the Logan residence, washed and then went for a ride. During the ride Caraway broke apart the revolver, throwing two parts out the right side of the car and one section out of the left side, Pinnell said.

Mrs. J. R. Rose, daughter-in-law of Caraway's employer, said her father-in-law had employed Caraway and his wife, Marie, July 1 through an employment agency.

Police said that throughout a night of questioning, Caraway was calm and soft-spoken and showed no emotion during the search for and discovery of the revolver parts.

CARAWAY DEFENSE HITS AT CONFESSION

Brings Out in Testimony That Prisoner Was Urged to Talk to Save Wife From Jail

The New York Times N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 3 — The defense scored several points at today's proceedings in the trial of Ward Beecher Caraway. Most important was the eliciting of information concerning the circumstances under which the defendant allegedly confessed to the slaying of Mrs. William John Logan, wife of a retired New York banker, in her home at Flower Hill, L. I., on July 24.

The information was drawn from a prosecution witness during cross-examination by James D. C. Murray, Caraway's counsel. The testimony of the witness, Detective John Gesell of the Nassau County homicide squad, was unfinished when the court adjourned until tomorrow morning.

Detective's Testimony

The gist of Mr. Gesell's testimony was that Caraway had refused to confess until his wife was taken before him and that his questioners had said his wife would be held as a material witness unless he confessed; he was urged to get anything off his mind that was bothering him "for her benefit."

Mr. Gesell added that so far as he knew no food and no opportunity to sleep had been provided for Caraway during the twelve hours of his questioning. He admitted that Mrs. Caraway was blameless and there was no reason for holding her.

Wed. 12-4-46

Mr. Murray held the witness on the stand for more than an hour.

"Didn't you say that if you don't make a confession we'll throw your wife into jail" Mr. Murray asked Mr. Gesell.

The detective replied that he did not recall that phraseology, but added:

"He may have been told that if she was held as a material witness she's go to jail."

The witness said that at one point in the questioning Caraway had promised that if he were permitted to talk to his wife "I'll tell you what happened." However, when his wife was taken to him on that occasion he still refused to confess, the detective said.

Mr. Gesell said that although he did not see any food taken to the defendant during the twelve hours of questioning, food might have been given Caraway during frequent periods when the detective stepped out of the office on other business. He also declared that he had seen Caraway "shutting his eyes" while seated in a chair during lulls in the questioning.

Court Rules For Defense

Mr. Murray scored another point when the court ruled that the general evidence relating to the shooting and robbing of Miss Marjory Jeanne Logan was admissable but all the consequences and the details of the shooting and robbery would not be allowed at this time. Yesterday Mr. Murray obtained a ruling that mention of the assault on Miss Logan be excluded.

District Attorney James N. GeGhrig wanted to get the aspects of the crimes against Miss Logan into the record in an effort to refute the indicated defense of mental derangement cause by the influence of narcotics. The crimes against the daughter ocurred after Mrs. Logan had been shot.

Miss Logan and her father were spectators during the morning session. Miss Logan appeared nervous at times, especially during the recital of evidence by the chief medical examiner regarding the autopsy.

Theodore Klick of Manhasset, a housepainter, testified that he had driven Miss Logan to a physician after she was shot. He identified Caraway as the man he saw near the Logan home as he was driving Miss Logan to a doctor.

Caraway Wins Mistrial in Case

The Black Dispatch

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Although the district attorney opposed the move, Judge Henry J. A. Collins in the Nassau County court last week declared a mistrial in the case of Ward Beecher Caraway, 23 year old youth charged with the first degree murder in the shooting of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan, last July 24, at Flower Hill, L. I. The case was selected without his approval postponed until Nov. 21. The motion was made by the defendant's lawyer, James D. C. Murray, who was also involved in the Freeport murder trials recently, said he couldn't hold the witnesses and that the case had already been postponed from Sept. 25 to Oct. 7. Gehrig said, "It would be unfair to the people of the state, but I will be glad to grant every opportunity for a fair trial." Sat. James A. Gehrig, district attorney for Nassau county, who was his present lawyer, Charles Weeks, lawyer. Mr. Murray acquiescence in this case, the defendant should be given every opportunity for a fair trial. Murray's plea was that the jury

the court over-ruled his objections and granted the adjournment.

16b 1946

Whites, by Negroes (New York--Ward Beecher Caraway)

??? About The Logan Case

8-15-46

By Theodore Ward

MINEOLA, Long Island, Aug. 14.—The indictment returned by a Nassau County grand jury yesterday against Ward Beecher Caraway for first-degree murder only, lends significance to a number of serious questions which Negro citizens of this town are insistently asking.

Originally, the 23-year-old Negro veteran was charged with rape and robbery as well as with murder. What is the significance of the dropping of the rape charges? Daily Worker, New York N.Y.

It is well known that Caraway has consistently denied any recollection of raping the Logan girl. If the charge was groundless, why did police officials resort to the Bilbo technique of giving out the story to the inflammatory daily press, thus allowing it to stigmatize the accused Negro and the Negro people as well? 8-15-46

Perhaps the District Attorney regarded it as inexpedient to press for an indictment on the rape charge? Thursday

Rumor persists which indicate that this may be close to the truth. The Negroes are asking out on Long Island, for example, if there is any truth to the story that Miss Logan and Caraway were previously acquainted and were friendly overseas?

Serious questions of this nature demand investigation—particularly in view of the developing wave of terror being directed against the Negro people both North and South, as well as the use their enemies make of charges of sex crimes in stimulating mob violence against them.

The police are against any organization taking an interest in the case. In an off-the-record talk one leading official claimed that Caraway is being regarded as an individual, and not as a Negro, and hence any interference by a Negro organization in his behalf would only tend to focus attention on the "race angle" to the detriment of white "good will" toward all Negroes. New York, N. Y.

To anyone making an on-the-spot survey the contrast is startling between the handling of this case, with its incitements in the press and from the police, and the killing of Negro GIs at Freeport near here.

One thing is clear—people here are quite certain that there are important undisclosed aspects to the Caraway-Logan case.

Negro Held In Jail After Admission He Slew Society Leader

Tel News Birmingham, Ala. Sat. 8-3-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Aug. 3—(AP)—Ward Beecher Caraway, 23-year-old Negro butler-chauffeur, was held today without bail for Grand Jury action after waiving examination at his arraignment on a first degree murder charge in the July 24 slaying of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan.

Caraway, earlier yesterday had dictated a statement confessing the shooting of the 52-year-old society matron and the wounding of her daughter, Marjory Jeanne, 26, Dist. Atty. James M. Gehrig said.

Gehrig added Caraway said in his statement he did not recall raping Miss Logan.

* * *

CARAWAY, WHO GAVE HIS ADDRESS as Charlotte, N. C., was identified by Miss Logan at Nassau Hospital, where she is recovering from wounds in the face and neck, as the man who had slain her mother and wounded her,, Asst. Dist. Atty. Philip Huntington, who was present, said.

Caraway also had taken police to fashionable Flower Hill, where the Logan home is, and assisted two detectives in finding two of the three sections of a revolver, which police quoted Caraway as saying he used in commission of the crimes.

Caraway's arrest Thursday night followed a police check of servants in the homes of neighbors of the Logans, which led them to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Rose at Southold, Long Island, where the Roses, Flower Hill residents, have a Summer home.

Caraway and his wife Marie were hired by the Roses July 1 through an agency, Mrs. J. R. Rose, daughter-in-law of Caraway's employer, said.

* * *

POLICE SAID CARAWAY resembled the description they had and when he failed to establish an alibi for July 24 they took him to Mineola. Sat 8-3-46

Miss Logan said previously that on the morning of July 24 a Negro entered the house and demanded money from her mother. She said she tossed $10 down the stairs. Then, Miss Logan added, the man ran up the stairs, seized a roll of bills from her and at gunpoint forced her into a bedroom where he raped her and then shot her twice.

Caraway will plead to the murder charge after Grand Jury action, but he cannot by law plead guilty.

Butler-Chauffeur Is Arraigned In Logan Slaying

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky

Mineola, N. Y., Aug. 2 (AP)—Ward Beecher Caraway, 23-year-old Negro butler-chauffeur, tonight was arraigned on a charge of first-degree murder in the slaying nine days ago of socially prominent Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, 52. He waived examination and was held without bail for grand jury action.

District Attorney James M. Gehrig said Caraway had dictated a statement confessing the shooting of Mrs. Logan and the wounding of her daughter, Marjory, 26. He denied raping the daughter, as she reported to police. Sat 8-3-46

Caraway's arrest followed a police check of servants in the homes of neighbors of the Logans. The check led them yesterday to the eastern Long Island village of Southold where Mr. and Mrs. James M. Rose, Flower Hill residents, have a summer home. Caraway was employed there.

ROBBER KILLS WIFE OF BANKER IN HOME

Times New York Thurs 7-25-46

Mrs. William John Logan Shot and Daughter Wounded by Negro Who Makes Escape

Special to The New York Times.

FLOWER HILL, L. I., July 24—A robber shot and killed Mrs. William John Logan, 52 years old, wife of a retired New York banker, in the living room of her luxurious home here shortly after 10:30 A. M. today. Then he ran upstairs, assaulted her daughter, Miss Marjory Jeanne Logan, at the point of a pistol: shot her twice in the face and neck, and escaped.

As Miss Logan was being taken to a doctor's office a few minutes later in the small coupe of Theodore Click, a painter who had been at work at a near-by home, they passed the slayer, a Negro, walking east on Bonnie Heights Road. Cowering in terror on the floor of the car, Miss Logan warned Mr. Click that the man was armed and dangerous, and begged him not to halt.

He obeyed and kept on his way, but noted that the killer left the road and disappeared into a patch of woods. When the police arrived, it and other wooded sections of Flower Hill, Manhasset and Plandome were thoroughly searched, and Bonnie Heights Road and the adjacent section of Port Washington Boulevard were closed off until 4:30 P. M., but without results.

Thurs 7-25-4

11-State Alarm Broadcast

An eleven-State alarm was broadcast by the Nassau County police for a Negro, described as six feet one inch tall, 150 pounds in weight, and under 25 years of age. He was wearing a light green polo shirt and khaki trousers. The alarm made a point of the fact that the man had staring eyes, and added: "May be a mental case. Has in his possession a nickle-plated revolver."

The tragedy took place in the twenty-room red brick Georgian mansion of the Logan family in this exclusive North Shore community, of whicch Mr. Logan was Mayor for several terms. Mr. Logan, an All-American guard at Princeton University in 1912, was a vice president of the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company until his retirement, and during the war served as director of the distribution division of the War Production Board.

When the chain of events started, there were only three persons, all women, in the house, which is on a two-acre plot, so heavily shrubbed and wooded that it is barely visible from Bonnie Heights Road. Mr. Logan had gone to New York on business. He is a director of Church & Dwight, Inc., baking soda manufacturers, of 70 Pine Street. Thurs 7-25-46

Daughter on Second Floor

Mrs. Logan was in the living room. Her daughter, who was a Wac T/4 in the Pacific during the war, was in her room on the second floor. The housekeeper, Mrs. Suzanne Delebra, was in her own quarters at the rear of the house. Mrs. Delebra's daughter, Yvette, who is a Barnard College student, was absent.

As related by Miss Logan, who gave a remarkably coherent account of her terrifying experience to Detective George Hutchinson of the Nassau County police, the robber obtained admittance to the house without anyone but Mrs. Logan being aware of his presence. Miss Logan said that suddenly she heard her mother's voice, calm and self-possessed, calling to her.

"Throw me down $10. I want to pay a debt," Mrs. Logan said.

Miss Logan went into the master bedroom and got her mother's blue pocketbook, which contained a roll of bills that she estimated later totaled about $110. She took a $10 bill from it, walked to the head of the stairs, and tossed it down. As she did so she glimpsed her mother, but still did not see the other person in the room.

Almost at once a shot was fired, and a tall Negro came bounding up the stairs to the point where Miss Logan stood, transfixed with horror. 'Give me 'that money. I need more money," he commanded. She handed it to him, but he was not content. Pointing his pistol at her, he ordered her into the bedroom. There he compelled her to remove her clothing and to lie on the floor, where he assaulted her.

As she sat up, he fired one shot, which struck her in the left cheek. Despite the wound, she jumped to her feet and whirled around. He fired a second shot, which hit her in the back of the neck. Then he fled, without attempting to take a valuable watch that was on the dressing table of the bedroom, or rings and pins that were on the bed.

Miss Logan, clad only in undergarments, ran down the backstairs and west across the landscaped plots of her own home and several adjoining ones in search of aid. She went first to the home of Philip Becker, but was frightened away by a barking dog. Then she went to the home of Barry Ture-

housekeeper, had heard the shots. She ran into the living room and found Mrs. Logan, still breathing but unconscious, on the floor. She shouted for help. The only person present, however, was a maid who was upstairs, and who did not immediately respond.

Started for Doctor's Office

Their course took them back past the Logan home. Only a short distance farther they sighted the Nassau Hospital ambulance. There her and then called the Logan's older daughter, Nancy, who is the wife of Alfred Von Klemperer of New York. She notified the office of Church & Dwight, Inc., which located Mr. Logan at Church Avenue and East Seventeenth Street, Brooklyn, where he had gone on business.

Mr. Logan commandeered a taxicab and sped the twenty-odd miles to his home, which by that time was the center of intense police activity. District Attorney James N. Gehrig of Nassau County arrived to take personal charge of the investigation, and 100 detectives and uniformed policemen were assembled for the search of the surrounding area.

In the course of the afternoon Mrs. Delebra, the

She ran to the next house, which is occupied by Charles Sperber and his family. The she met Mr. Click, man!" who suddenly found himself confronted by a bleeding, scantily clad young woman. He helped her into his car, meanwhile calling to Mr. his foot on the accelerator and

Thurs 7-25-46

Maid Finds Dying Woman

half a dozen suspects were picked up, but none of them were identified by Mr. Click and all were subsequently released. There were also the usual reports that a man answering the description of the fugitive had been sighted—one report said on Northern Boulevard; another on Hempstead Turnpike. Late this evening, however, Mr. Gehrig said that no headway had been made in the search for the slayer.

Mrs. Logan was the former Miss Marjory Vose Clark, daughter of Dwight E. Clark, before her marriage to Mr. Logan in 1917. Her father, who is a resident of Westhampton, L. I., and her sister, Mrs. Harry Minton, arrived at the Logan home in the early afternoon, after they had been informed of the tragedy.

Mr. Logan, who was born in Montclair, N. J., in 1891, was graduated from Princeton in 1913 and entered the banking business. He served in World War I as an artillery officer. He was elected a vice president of the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company in 1927, but retired from the banking business about five years ago, when he entered the Government service with the WPB.

His first post was as director of the WPB Compliance Division, and later he was promoted to the position of director of the Distribution Division. He served a number of years ago as treasurer of the Grant Monument Association, and also served several terms as Mayor of Flower Hill. He is a member of the Union and Down Town Clubs of this city; of the Mayflower Descendants; and of the Chevy Chase and Metropolitan Clubs of Washington.

JURY TO SIT AUG. 13 IN LOGAN MURDER

The New York Times

Absence of Panel Members Delays Action—Job Agency Summoned to Inquiry

New York, N. Y. Sun, 8/4/46

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Aug. 3—The District Attorney's Office of Nassau County will present to the Grand Jury within ten days, the case of Ward Beecher Caraway, 23-year-old butler-chauffeur, who has confessed that he killed Mrs. William John Logan and assaulted her daughter, Marjory Jeanne, it was learned today.

Although District Attorney James N. Gehrig was not available for comment, it was made known that he would convene the jury on Tuesday, Aug. 13. Officials said that Mr. Gehrig had hoped to present the case this Tuesday but certain members of the jury were unavailable.

Captain Stuyvesant Pinnell, head of the Nassau County detective force, and Lieut. James Farrell in a twelve-state broadcast today called attention to Caraway's arrest and gave a detailed description of him. Lieutenant Farrell explained that the broadcast was made to acquaint other police officials with the nature of the crime and to ascertain whether Caraway figured in similar crimes.

Prisoner Sleeps Soundly

Caraway was not subjected to any interrogation yesterday. At the Nassau County Jail, keepers reported that he had slept soundly during the night, then read magazines, and conversed with other prisoners. Police officials reiterated that he was "unusually intelligent and reserved." *8/4/46 Sun.*

Caraway, the former butler and chauffeur for Joseph M. Rose, whose home is half a mile away from the Logan home in the Flower Hill section, was dishonorably discharged from the Army on a larceny charge after a court-martial, the police said.

Details that led to his arrest were made known. It was not until Wednesday—the murder and clear description of her assailant was an important factor in the hunt.

On the strength of her description, the alarm sent out by the police ordered a sharp lookout for "a medium-sized Negro, 25 to 35 years old, 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet 1 inch, slim build, starey eyes, black hair pompadour fashion, puffed up in front."

Caraway is 5 feet 10 or 11 inches in height, is slender, has rather prominent eyes, wears his hair in a curly crew cut. Miss Logan recalled that her assailant was "soft-voiced." Caraway, who was graduated from a North Carolina high school, speaks in a blurry Southern accent. Mr. Gehrig said he speaks French, and had good marks in geometry, chemistry and other subjects in the Charlotte high school he attended.

"I have had a long talk with Caraway," Mr. Gehrig told reporters at 5 o'clock this afternoon. "He gave me a full confession. It was taken down stenographically. That took a couple of hours. Caraway was indefinite as to motive. He remembers demanding money from the Logans and that he had a revolver with him." *8/3/46*

'Absolutely' Sane

"Is he sane?" someone wanted to know.

The District Attorney said: "Absolutely. He could give all kinds of details—house numbers, full descriptions of places and events. He said he bought the revolver in Trenton, N. J., for $35 last May or June. He said he never knew the Logans, never saw them before he entered their house that morning."

According to the District Attorney, Caraway related in the confession that he drove to the Logan home in his employer's car, that he parked it in Bonnie Heights Road near the Logan house, that he walked around to the main door, pushed the door open and saw Mrs. Logan sitting there.

Caraway had only three shells in his .32-caliber revolved when he went to the house, Mr. Gehrig said. He used one shot to kill Mrs. Logan, the nmounted the stairs to Miss Logan's room and shot the girl in the face and in the neck with the remaining cartridges. Then he walked from the house down the driveway to where he had left the Rose car and drove back to the Rose cottage.

The police said that Caraway washed after he got back to the Rose home and changed into fresh clothes, drove back toward the Logan place and threw the various parts of the disassembled revolver to the right and left of the road, where they were picked up today.

Drives to Meet Employer

That evening he drove to the Plandome station on the Long Island Railroad to meet Mr. Rose. All the commuters were talking about the murder at the Logan place and Caraway offered to take his employer by the scene of the crime. He stopped the car in Bonnie Heights Road and carefully pointed out where the Logan house showed through the trees. *Sun. 8/3/46*

Though Caraway insisted he had never met any of the Logans until he entered their home with the revolver about 10:30 A. M. on July 24, he had, by chance, been at the Plandome station that same morning at 9 o'clock when both his prospective victims were there. Caraway drove his employer to the station to catch the 9:03 train for New York City and Mrs. Logan and her daughter had driven down with Mr. Logan, a retired banker, who was catching the same train. Caraway said today he did not recall that he saw them then.

Mr. Gehrig said that, according to the confession, Caraway did not drive directly from the Plandome station to the Logan home, but went back to the Rose cottage first, got the revolver out of a trunk and with no particular objective in mind, drove around until he reached the Logan place. The District Attorney said Caraway never attempted to establish an alibi, and accounted for all his activities between the time he met the 9:03 through the time the murder was committed.

Hundreds Were Questioned

Captain Stuyvesant Pinnell, head of the Nassau County police, said his detectives had checked almost all homes in and around Flower assault took place in the morning of July 24—that the police were able to learn of Caraway's employment in Flower Hill and that the description supplied by Miss Logan fitted to the letter. The police had gone over the Flower Hill section but Caraway, it was disclosed, had been in the Rose summer home at Southold. They brought him back to Police Headquarters here and took his picture. Miss Logan identified the picture, and on Friday identified Caraway in person.

The police have recovered two of the three parts of the pistol that Caraway threw away. They used a mine detector all this morning in an attempt to locate the third part but were unsuccessful. *8/4/46*

In a statement, Captain Pinnell said: "The concerted and untiring efforts of both the entire detective bureau and the uniformed force, working as a team, brought about the desired result. I also wish to express my appreciation to all the individuals, witnesses, governmental and law enforcement agencies for their splendid aid and cooperation in our mutual effort to solve this case."

To Question Job Agency

In New York City, License Commissioner Benjamin Fielding announced that employment agencies were due for a city-wide investigation "touched off" by disclosures in the Logan murder case. He said that as the first step he has fixed 11 A. M. Monday for questioning of Robert M. Morris, head of the H. and M. Modern Employment Agency, 200 East Seventy-second Street, through which Caraway was hired as a butler-chauffeur by Mr. Rose.

Commissioner Fielding said he wanted to question Mr. Morris on his agency's handling of the Caraway employment records, and has subpoenaed all books and records of the agency relative to this employment.

"The Employment Agency Law specifically stipulates that it is the duty of every agency to make a careful and diligent inquiry into the references and background of each applicant, particularly in the case of domestic servants," he said.

The commissioner added that "if the licensee has been guilty of gross negligence, he faces immediate punitive action."

Hill in their search for the slayer, and that they had questioned hundreds of suspects before they determined that Caraway was their man.

He said the check involved all laundries and all tailoring and cleaning and dyeing establishments where the murderer's clothes might show up. They were on the lookout for bloodstained garments.

Mr. Gehrig said they had every item in Caraway's wardrobe, collected from both the Southold and Flower Park homes owned by the Roses. Up to last night the police had not disclosed what stains they found, if any, on the outfit Caraway wore when he killed Mrs. Logan and wounded her daughter.

The District Attorney said that Mrs. Marie Caraway, the butler's wife, a cook in the Rose's employ, had cooperated with the authorities and had made no attempt to frustrate them. She and her husband were hired as a couple through a New York City agency on July 3. He said he was convinced that Mrs. Caraway knew nothing about her husband's connection with the crime until the police came to the Rose's Southold residence on Wednesday and took him to Mineola. *Sun. 8-3-46*

Mrs. Robert Rose, daughter-in-law of Caraway's employer, who lives in Flower Hill, told reporters today: "I began to feel uneasy the other day when I suddenly realized how closely Ward fitted the description given by Miss Logan." The butler's calm behavior, though, threw all the Roses off. Although friends visiting the house discussed the Logan murder in detail, Caraway moved quietly among them, the perfect servant, without a trace of fear.

Caraway Brought In

On Wednesday, however, Captain Pinnell ordered his men to bring Caraway in from Southold. He was questioned in Mineola for five hours on Wednesday night, in much the same manner as other suspects had been questioned, and like the others was turned loose. This gesture, though the detectives by this time knew almost beyond doubt that Caraway was their man, was merely a disarming move on their part. During the five hours of questioning they photographed him.

They were unable to show these photographs to Miss Logan until yesterday afternoon because her doctors were not certain until then whether her condition would permit it. She took one look at the photographs, Captain Pinnell said, and identified Caraway immediately.

"That's the man who shot me," she was quoted as having told the police. Meanwhile Caraway was under close observation, though he was unaware of it. If he had tried to leave the Rose home detectives would have grabbed him.

When the detectives called for him again at the Rose home on Thursday afternoon, he met them with the same calm as on their first visit. When they drove with him to Nassau Hospital, where Miss Logan is slowly recovering from her wounds, he showed no emotion. He was careful and deliberate with answers to questions put by the police, but always polite, too.

When Miss Logan, upon seeing him by her bed between two policemen, said positively, "That's the man who shot me," Caraway put his right hand to the lower part of his face and turned his head away uneasily. He did not speak.

Detectives questioned him at intervals all Thursday night, but not until noon today did he begin to give way. Then, Mr. Gehrig said, he admitted that he had been at the Logans' home the morning of July 24, and led the detectives to the spot where he had thrown the revolver parts. Handcuffed to Detective John Gsell, under the stares of curious neighbors and a group of newspaper men, he looked carefully in the weeds and tall grass for the missing revolver sections. When two had been turned up he was driven back to Mr. Gehrig's office where, according to the District Attorney, he unfolded the full story. *Sun. 8/3/46*

No Recollection of Assault

Mr. Gehrig said that Caraway maintains that although he recalls the shooting and the theft of money—he had $14 in small bills in his wallet when arrested—he does not recall that he assaulted Miss Logan. Mr. Gehrig said: "I asked him, 'How could a man do such a thing and forget it?' and he insisted, repeatedly, 'I have no recollection of it.'"

16b 1946 hites, by Negroes (New York--Ward Beecher Caraway)

Search for Killer of Mrs. Logan Widens to Include Three States

Times New York, N.Y.

One Suspect Held for Questioning as Hunt Goes On in New York, Jersey and Connecticut—Daughter of Victim Still in Hospital

Friday 7-26-46

The search for the robber who killed Mrs. William John Logan and assaulted and gravely wounded her daughter, Miss Marjory Jeanne Logan, in their home at Flower Hill, L. I., Wednesday morning was widened yesterday to New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, but without tangible result.

One suspect was being held in Greenwich, Conn., where Nassau County detectives planned to question him this morning, but Police Chief John M. Gleason of Greenwich was frankly skeptical as to whether he was actually the wanted man, who is described as a Negro with "starey eyes." Chief Gleason said: "While some parts of his clothing and general description tally, I don't believe he's the same man."

This suspect was originally sighted yesterday morning riding the rods under a coal car attached to a New York, New Haven & Hartford train as it passed through New Rochelle. Railroad employes telephoned ahead, and when the train halted at a Stamford signal block, the man was arrested. Because the car on which he was riding was just over the Stamford-Greenwich boundary, he was taken to the latter jail.

7-26-46 Friday

Admits Criminal Record

There he identified himself as Carnell Barnes, 30 years old, of 6062 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia. He admitted a criminal record, including convictions for burglary, bootlegging and assault, but denied any knowledge of the Long Island crime. He said that he had spent the preceding night sleeping in a shelter he made of two packing cases pulled together, near the Bronx yards of the New Haven.

His description corresponded in some respects with that in the alarm sent out by the Nassau County police Wednesday. The most important similarities were that he wore brown trousers and a grayish-green shirt, and wore his hair pompadour style. However, he had a moustache, which was not mentioned in the description given by those who saw the killer, and was 5 feet 8 inches tall and 170 pounds in weight, which varied from the figures in the alarm.

A somewhat revised description was sent out yesterday over the nne-State teletype system by Capt. Stuyvesant Pinnell, head of the Nassau County Detective Bureau. It was as follows:

"Arrest for murder, assault and robbery medium-colored Negro, 25 to 35 years, 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet 1 inch, slim build, starey eyes, black hair pompadour fashion puffed up in front; was wearing brown trousers. Has nickle-plated revolver. May attenipt to change a $50 bill, which was part of proceeds of crime."

Times

Husband Unable to Help

District Attorney James W. Gehrig of Nassau County talked yesterday with the husband of the slain woman, a former vice president of the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company, and official of the War Production Board. He said that Mr. Logan had been unable to offer any information that might help establish the slayer's identity. Mr. Logan said that he had not had any Negroes in his employ for many years.

Nassau County detectives visited Negro residential sections in Flushing, Corona and South Jamaica, Queens, yesterday on what were described as routine checks in connection with the crime, but the opinion was expressed by several of those working on the case that the brutal crime was committed by some one thoroughly familiar with the local geography of the Long Island North Shore.

Two New York City and four Newark detectives visited the Nassau County Police Headquarters yesterday for further information about the crime, in efforts to link it with somewhat similar cases in those two cities. The Newark men said that recently a Negro who resembled the description of the man in the Logan case rang a doorbell and beat a woman who answered it, until her screams frightened him away. The New York detectievs said they wanted to check on the Logan case in connection with a recent assault on a white woman by a Negro in this city.

Times

Girl's Condition Is "Fair"

The condition of Miss Logan was said last night at the Nassau Hospital in Mineola to be "fair," and the police were informed that she probably would recover, unless complications developed. An operation was performed early yesterday by Dr. Lawrence Poole, New York brain surgeon, for the removal of a bullet from her sinus region. Another bullet had previously been taken from her neck.

Both of these bullets as well as the single bullet that penetrated her mother's forehead and killed her were sent yesterday to the Police Laboratory in this city for study by ballistics experts. Meanwhile the police declined to disclose their caliber. 7-26-46 Fri

Mrs. Logan's body was turned over yesterday to a New York undertaker, Walter H. Williams of 152 East Seventy-fourth Street. A funeral service will be held for her at 4 P. M. today in St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal Church, Park Avenue and Fifty-first Street.

PRISONER QUERIED IN LOGAN MURDER

Times

Nassau Police, However, Doubt Man Held Here Is Slayer Despite Similarities

New York N.Y.

Sunday 7-28-46

The latest suspect in the investigation of the murder of Mrs. William J. Logan and the assault and shooting of her daughter, Marjory Jeanne, apparently was eliminated late last night when Nassau County Police said a Negro held in City Prison for possession of a revolver was not the murderer.

The prisoner, Frank B. Phillips, 20 years old, a laborer, was arrested Friday night in Harlem after a .32-caliber revolver was found in his possession. Mrs. Logan was killed Wednesday morning with a weapon of that caliber in her home at Flower Hill, L. I.

Capt. Stuyvesant Pinnell of the Nassau County Police said two of his men had questioned Phillips and that as a result of that investigation "we do not believe he is the man we are after."

The police described Phillips as 5 feet, 11 inches, weighing 170 pounds. This answers the description of the murderer. Phillips' revolver is "vest-pocket" size with five chambers, two of which were loaded, the police said. The weapon, which was to have been turned over to the Police Department's Ballistics Bureau, is also "shiny." The murder weapon was described as nickel-plated, and three shots were known to have been fired from it. 7-28-46

According to New York City police, who questioned Phillips in the lineup yesterday morning, the prisoner said he had worked as a farmhand at Jamesport, L. I., about fifty miles east of the murder scene, and had returned to New York City on Thursday.

The police also said that the prisoner had purchased a new pair of trousers on Thursday and had taken a close hair-cut. He was wearing the new trousers when he was arrested in front of 1455 Fifth Avenue, near 118th Street. This is about a five-minute walk from his home at 27 West 112th Street.

After questioning by Acting Capt. Raymond Maguire, during which the prisoner said he had not used the revolver, he was arraigned in Felony Court for violation of the Sullivan Law and transferred to City Prison.

Sunday

According to Detective Peter Golemboski, who with Detective Cornelius Ryan, both of the East 126th Street station, made the arrest, Phillips "looked suspicious," and carried his head tilted to the right. The prisoner, according to the police, had no record of previous arrests. 7-28-46

Before news of Phillips' arrest reached Nassau County police, they had begun a long but fruitless search of a cemetery near the twenty-room Logan home, where the crimes were committed. The police there denied they had found hairs in the bedroom, where the 26-year-old Marjory Jeanne Logan was attacked.

Later in the day Nassau County District Attorney James N. Gehrig announced that William J. Logan, husband of the murdered woman, had offered a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer.

There were conflicting reports concerning the disposition of Phillips' revolver. At the Ballistics Bureau it was said the weapon had not been received. Elsewhere, it was reported that the Ballistics Bureau would complete tests on it over the week-end.

GLEN COVE SUSPECT HELD IN LOGAN CASE

Times

New York N.Y.

Seized in Buffalo, He Blames Tavern Fight for Bruises—Clothing Like Slayer's

With the arrest of a Negro in Buffalo, Nassau County police began checking with authorities in the up-State city yesterday on the possibility that the prisoner might have been connected with the murder of Mrs. William J. Logan and the shooting and assaulting of her daughter, Marjory Jeanne.

Several Nassau detectives were sent to Glen Cove, L. I., where the Buffalo suspect lives, to inquire among his friends concerning his whereabouts at the time of the crimes on Wednesday morning. Glen Cove is about twelve miles from the Logan estate, where the crimes were committed.

At 9:30 o'clock last night Commissioner John M. Beckmann and Ispector William K. Allen of the Nassau police appeared at the Nassau police station in Mineola and went into conference with Capt. Stuyvesant Pinnell.

Sunday 7-29-46

Captive Bears Scratches

According to the Buffalo police, the man arrested there was identified as Michael J. Hammons, 22 years old, of 3 Shore Road, Glen Cove. He was said to have left his home over the week-end. His captors said his arme were scratched and bruised, but that the man said he had been in a tavern brawl.

The prisoner wore a green sports shirt, similar to that seen on the murderer. About5 feet 10 inches tall, he roughly resembled the murderer's description, according to the Buffalo police. Nassau County police, in telephone conversations, suggested questions to the Buffalo police, but no Nassau detectives were known to have departed for that city. 7-29-46

Another suspect, whose identity the Nassau detectives refused to reveal, was taken into custody in New York City and was being questioned. To date nearly 200 persons have been interrogated in the investigation, without yielding substantial clues. 7-29-46

Mine Detectors Used

During the day Nassau County police made a determined effort to find the murder weapon. Using four mine detectors they examined the Logan estate and surrounding territory, but found only wire and metallic junk.

Times

Marjory Jeanne Logan, the 26-year-old daughter of Wiliam J. Logan, former bank official, continued to improve, but was still not well enough to be questioned by the police.

Logan Suspect Faces Trial for Murder

Times Dispatch Richmond, Va. Wed 8-14-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Aug. 13 (AP)—A Nassau County grand jury voted a first-degree murder indictment today for Ward Beecher Caraway, 23-year-old Negro held in the slaying of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan and the wounding of her daughter last July 24 at their Flower Hill estate.

Caraway, handcuffed between two officers, was taken before County Judge Henry J. A. Collins for arraignment and returned to jail pending trial, expected to commence September 9.

District Attorney James N. Gehrig said Garaway admitted in a statement shooting Mrs. Logan and her daughter, Marjory Jeanne, 26-year-old former WAC sergeant, after he entered their home demanding money. Wed. 8-14-46

He was employed at the nearby home of Joseph M. Rose as a chauffeur and butler.

ONE LOGAN SUSPECT FREED, ANOTHER HELD

Times

New York N.Y.

Michael J. Hammonds of Glen Cove, L. I., who was flown to Mineola from Buffalo for question-ing in connection with the murder of Mrs. William J. Logan and the shooting and assault on her daughter, Marjory Jeanne, was released yesterday by the Nassau police. At the same time it was announced in New Jersey that New Brunswick police had taken into custody a Negro, who, they said, answered the description of the murderer. This suspect was being held on a charge of vagrancy, but was not known if Nassau police would question him.

Mrs. Logan was in Flower Hill, scene of the murder, when Mrs. Logan was found in her home last Wednesday morning.

8-30-46

In Newark a search was ordered for an envelope containing $200 with a police lieutenant on desk duty at the Fourth Precinct on Friday and then disappeared. None of the bills in the envelope was larger than a twenty-dollar denomination.

Servant, 23, Admits Long Island Crimes

Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.
8-3-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Aug. 2—(UP)—A 23-year-old North Carolina Negro confessed Friday to the cold-blooded killing of Mrs. William John Logan and the assault-shooting of her daughter in the Logan Long Island mansion on July 24.

Dist. Atty. James N. Gehrig announced that Ward Beecher Caraway, the Negro who was identified Thursday night by Marjory Jeanne Logan as the slayer, had broken down and led police to where he hid the murder gun.

It was a spot in Flower Hill, not far from the Logan home, where they found the handle and barrel of a revolver, Gehrig said.

"Caraway pointed to the pieces of the gun and admitted they were parts of a gun he used to shoot Mrs. Logan," Gehrig said.

The young Negro, who had been employed at the estate of J. M. Rose, a half-mile from the Logan home, was arrested Thursday night and taken to Nassau Hospital where he was brought face-to-face with Miss Logan, still suffering from face and neck wounds from his shots.

"That's the man," the former WAC said after a careful look at Caraway.

The young Negro had worked about a month at the Rose home as a butler and chauffeur, Capt. Stuyvesant J. Pinnell, head of the Nassau County Detective Bureau, said. Since the slaying, police had concentrated on finding somebody familiar with the Flower Hill neighborhood, probably a domestic employed by a neighboring family. Caraway was picked up Thursday night at Southold, near here.

8-3-46

Caraway's arrest climaxed eight days of intensive investigation since the slayer invaded the Logan home a little after 10 p. m. a week ago Wednesday. The man demanded money from Mrs. Logan, who was downstairs at the time, according to the story later told by Miss Logan.

Mrs. Logan called to her daughter, who was upstairs at the time, and asked her for $10 to "pay a debt." The young woman took the money from a purse, dropped it over the banister, and then heard a shot.

The slayer bounded up the stairs with his revolver pointed at Miss Logan. He forced her into a bedroom where he assaulted her. Then, as she sat up in bed, he fired two shots into her. The Negro grabbed her purse with more than $100 in it and fled the house.

HEARING ON AGENCY IN LOGAN CASE ENDS

Times, New York, New York
Thurs. 8-8-46

Decision to Be Withheld Until New Data From Army and Charlotte, N. C., Are in Hand

Benjamin Fielding, City License Commissioner, closed yesterday his hearing on the complaint that the H. & M. Modern Employment Agency, of 200 East Seventy-second Street, was guilty of "flagrant violation" of the employment agency laws when it sent Ward Beecher Caraway, the bulter-chauffeur accused of the murder of Mrs. Marjory Vose Logan of that community, to Joseph M. Rose of Flower Hill, L. I.

Mr. Fielding said the final decision would be withheld until additional information sought from the War Department and the Police Department of Charlotte, N. C., had been received. The decision, which may involve suspension or revocation of the agency's license, must be made within eight days.

A third count in the charge against the agency, that of giving "false and mislaeding information," has been added, Mr. Fielding said. The other counts are failure to make diligent inquiry into Caraway's record and the acceptance of a $30 fee for performing investigation services that the License Department contends never were performed.

Present at the hearing were Robert M. Morris and Harry Marmorstein, partners in the agency; Harold Baer, their counsel, and Detective Frank Pribye of Nassau County.

Thurs. 8-8-46

While the hearing was in progress word was received from Mapleton, N. J., that the police of that community, in cooperation with the New York police, were extending their investigation of employment agencies in New Jersey in an effort to link Caraway with the robbery of Mrs. Mary L. Whitehead of Maplewood on June 5, 1945.

One of the witnesses at the hearing was Mr. Rose, who employed Caraway as a butler-chauffeur. According to Mr. Fielding, the witness said he employed Caraway on the strength of the H. & M. Agency's report that Caraway and his wife were well recommended. Mr. Fielding also said the agency at no time had asked Caraway about the nature of his military service.

A brief handed to reporters by Mr. Baer declared that when Mr. Rose telephoned on July 3 for a couple to work for him he was told by Mr. Morris that no references for Caraway were available. According to the brief Mr. Morris told Mr. Rose that he was not recommending Caraway and his wife and was awaiting a reply to a request sent to a person named by Caraway as a reference.

Soon after the close of the hearing Mr. Fielding received a telegram from J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declaring that Caraway had been arrested in Durham, N. C., on Oct. 31, 1944, on two charges of larceny. The telegram advised Mr. Fielding that on that occasion Caraway was turned over to the military authorities and on Jan. 16, 1945, sentenced to a year in the Army Rehabilitation Center at Fort Jackson, S. C.

Mr. Fielding said he planned to resume conferences with the various associations of employment agencies about Aug. 19.

Murder-rapist Tortune tells story under hypnosis

Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 10-26-46

MINEOLA, N. Y.—The trial of butler-chauffeur Ward Beecher Caraway, 23, for the slaying of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, white, took a Seventh Veilish turn here last week as it was revealed that two New York psychiatrists had put him under hypnosis to clear up his contradictory statements.

Caraway, first under hypnosis and later in a normal state, blamed sleeping pills for his actions. He explained that as a hospital ward aide in the Army, he had access to barbiturates. He took them for sedatives but found they made him feel "high all over" instead of putting him to sleep. He said they gave him the same feeling he got when he occasionally smoked marihuana.

He was dishonorably discharged a year ago, he said, because he stole a radio and rifle from a friend and pawned them as revenge for the loss of his wallet containing $38 in the friend's home. After his return to his wife and a wellpaid civilian job as butler, he continued to take barbiturates to get the "high feeling".

He said he had taken a couple of pills July 24, the day of the murder. His shooting of Mrs. Logan and his wounding and raping of her daughter, Jeanne, occurred after he wandered down the road, "out for adventure", he said. "I felt high, good all over, like I owned the whole world. It was just like walking on air."

After the bloody episodes in the Logan home, he left feeling "very scared" and the high feeling worn away, he said.

Caraway's trial was adjourned last week when his court-appointed attorney, Charles R. Weeks, suffered an attack of asthma and was advised not to continue. Weeks has been replaced by James D. C. Murray. District attorney James N. Gehrig, of Mineola, is asking for the death penalty on the ground that Caraway's actions were premeditated and constitute a felony murder.

Caraway previously rejected the only Negro questioned on the jury panel, Ralph S. Bryant, after Bryant, a World War veteran, said, "I belong to the American Legion--a white post. We're 100% American and I refused invitations to join committees in the (Freeport) Ferguson case. I know I am classed as a colored man but my heart is as white as anybody else here. I thought it was a dastardly deed. I felt such a character wasn't fit to roam the streets."

Weeks, then still counsel, asked Caraway if Bryant was acceptable. "What do you think?" Caraway said. It's up to you, Ward", said Weeks. "I dont want him then", Caraway decided.

A second Negro venireman, farm laborer, Herbert B. Payne, was excused when he explained that his employer had a truckload of produce which would spoil unless it was delivered.

A Contrast

Daily Worker
Mon. 8-5-46

SCREAMING headlines in the commercial press about the arrest of Ward Beecher Caraway charged with the Logan murder have driven out two major news items:

Gov. Dewey's whitewash of policeman Romeika, slayer of the two Ferguson brothers, Negro ex-GIs.

Failure of the federal government to apprehend the lynchers responsible for the Georgia massacre of two Negro couples.

Mon. 8-5-46

How swiftly the forces of "law and order" acted in the Logan case! Before arresting Caraway, police intimidated entire Negro communities.

New York, N.Y.

And how this contrasts with the inability of the vaunted FBI to capture the Georgia lynchers. Nassau's Republican machine was quick in the Logan case, but it condones the police killing of Negro vets who were cleared of any wrongdoing by the army and navy of the U.S.

Since the forces of "law and order" have been used so often against the Negro people, it is not amiss to insist that Caraway get a fair hearing.

Mon. 8-5-46

White Killed In Attack On Vet In Dixie

The Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 6-29-46

By FRED ATWATER

BUTLER, Ala. — A white man's hunt to kill a Negro veteran ended in death for the hunter this week when A. J. McIlwain, 60, was fatally wounded in a gun duel with 23-year-old James Law.

McIlwain was shot by the veteran after he had wounded Law in the arm with a shotgun blast. He died in Barber hospital before medical aid could be administered.

Law, recently discharged from the Army, was taken to the Dallas County jail at Selma, as a precaution against possible mob violence.

Girl Cause of Shooting

Unconfirmed reports indicate a Negro girl, said to be the companion of the veteran, was the center of the trouble.

Frightened colored residents, reluctant to express an opinion as to the cause of the conflict, said that the girl had been the white man's paramour during the veteran's absence from home.

On the day of the shooting, the girl was reported to have been in Law's car at the McPhearson Mill Pond at Silas where both lived. Another couple was also in the car, it was reported.

Vet Followed

In giving an account of the shooting, witnesses said McIlwain came on the scene and ordered the girl from the car.

An argument followed and Law is alleged to have drawn a gun on McIlwain to protect himself from possible harm.

McIlwain then went to his home, got his shotgun and returned to Silas, looking for Law, according to the report. He learned the veteran was at Bolinger, several miles away, and pursued him there where the gun battle ensued.

Officials Put Damper On Case

Law was arrested at the Barber hospital where he had been taken for treatment. He was immediately rushed to the Selma jail amid reports of a possible lynching.

The girl was hit in the leg by buckshots from McIlwain's gun.

State authorities are reticent to discuss the cause of the duel, termed as one of the numerous hushed dramas of the South. Officials have refused to comment on possible action, claim they have not determined the cause of the battle.

16b 1946 Whites, by Negroes (N. C.)

Meddling White Youth Slain in Movie Discussion Fight

Afro American Sat 5-11-46

Baltimore, Md.

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.—As the result of a fight which allegedly grew out of an argument over a motion picture, involving a group of colored and white youths, Fred L. Anthony, 17, has been charged with the fatal stabbing of a white youth, Edward Dempsey, 17.

Edgar Smith, 27, white, who has a police record, is being held as an accessory. Other youths held as material witnesses under $250 bonds, in an undisclosed jail, are Wade Johnson, 18, and Dolphus Baker, 18, who police said were returning home with Anthony, after attending a western movie in which knife throwing was shown.

Sat 5-11-46

One lad remarked, as they came to a loading bus, "that fellow sure could throw a knife the way he killed that man." Smith, hearing him, was reported to have approached the boys with an incriminating question, after which a fight ensued. Dempsey standing by, interfered in the fight, resulting in the fatal stabbing.

2nd girl confesses part in killing white housewife

Los Angeles Tribune
Los Angeles California

TOLEDO, O. — A 17-year-old high school girl, Anna Patton, confessed to Toledo police last week that she had helped in the bludgeon-murder of a white housewife, Mrs. Mary Schulman, 47, two weeks ago.

The Patton girl was arrested after Ethel Burks, 16, who previously admitted having killed the white woman because she "didn't like her", kept using the pronoun "we" under police questioning and was finally made to point out her accomplice. Nat. 5.11.46

After naming her friend, who also works as a maid in a private home, the Burks girl amended her story to say that the motive for the murder was robbery. However, the Patton girl declared that "Ethel's dislike for the woman caused the attack". She said she stood guard while Ethel Burks lured Mrs. Schulman to the backyard of her employer, Mrs. Lawrence Tarloff, on the pretext that Mrs. Tarloff needed help in icing a cake, and clubbed her on the head with a 30-in. iron pipe.

Both girls are juveniles under Ohio law and are being held pending outcome of the proper authorities' decision. A juvenile psychologist examining Ethel Burks declared she was sane and had no regard either for her act or its consequences.

Police Accuse Handyman, 14, Of Rape-Killing in New Jersey

LANGHORNE, PA., June 17—(UP) —'A 14-year-old Negro handyman, Aaron Shelton, Jr., was held for grand jury action today in the rape-slaying of his employer, Mrs. Peggy Shetland, 48, wife of a trenton, N. J. rubber company official.

The 180-pound, five-foot, 10-inch youth stood poker-faced throughout a 20-minute hearing before Justice of the Peace Horace A. Cooper. He was clad in the same pair of overalls and open shirt he wore on Saturday, when Mrs. Shetland was found strangled in the coal bin of her 11-room home.

Shelton did not testify and had no counsel. He was committed to the county prison at Doylestown.

Part of the confession, in which police said Shelton admitted strangling Mrs. Shetland with heavy twine and then setting fire to the house to conceal the crime, was read by the chief county detective, Anthony Russo.

District Attorney Edward G. Biester said he would request that Shelton be tried in the Court of Oyer and Terminer rather than Juvenile Court. The Negro will be 15 on July 1.

Attacks Woman

Mrs. Shetland's body was carried out of her burning home by Shelton's father, also employed on the Shetlands' 11-acre estate. He ran into the house in search of Mrs. Shetland when he noticed smoke pouring from the windows.

Russo said the younger Shelton entered the second-floor of his employer's home while he was supposed to be mowing the lawn. Mrs. Shetland, in bed with a minor illness, ordered Shelton out of the house. Her husband, Walter, was at work.

The Negro went to the cellar, obtained some heavy twine and returned to the first floor, Russo said. He struck Mrs. Shetland with his fist, knocking her unconscious. Then, he said, he tied her hands and feet with the twine and attacked her.

Shelton told police that when he released the woman later, she leaped to her feet, threw a candelabra at him and chased him outside with a poker. He took the poker from Mrs. Shelton and felled her with a blow on the head.

The Negro said he then carried Mrs. Shetland to the cellar and strangled her. He set fire to some kerosene-soaked coal and rags and then left, the youth said.

Negro Youth Charged With Woman's Death

LANGHORNE, Pa., June 17—(AP) —A 14-year-old Negro boy who helped his gardener-father after his junior high school classes faces arraignment on a murder charge today for the brutal sex slaying of his 48-year-old employer.

Bucks County Detective Chief Anthony Russo said the admitted slayer, Aaron Shelton, Jr., of Philadelphia, "reenacted the crime before several officers and newspaper men" yesterday.

Russo announced Shelton "signed a complete confession that he killed" Mrs. Walter A. Shetland, wife of a Trenton, N. J., rubber company executive, at her suburban home here Saturday.

Russo said the youth admitted attacking Mrs. Shetland, knocking her unconscious with a poker, strangling her with a string and then trying to set her home on fire.

The boy's father noticed the fire, ran into the house and discovered the woman's body, Russo said.

"A tightly knotted string was around her throat," the detective said. "She died of strangulation."

Kills Woman, Fires House

LANGHORNE, Pa., June 16—(AP)—A 14-year-old Negro youth confessed Sunday that he strangled a 41-year-old clubwoman at her suburban home Saturday and then set the house afire, Anthony Russo, chief of Bucks County detectives, reported.

The victim was Mrs. Walter A. Shetland, wife of an executive of the Essex Rubber Company at Trenton, N. J.

Russo said the Negro, who will be 15 years old July 21, is Aaron Shelton, Jr., of Philadelphia.

"Shelton re-enacted the crime before several officers and newspapermen," Russo said. "We questioned him intensively and early Sunday he signed a complete confession that he killed Mrs. Shetland. The statement was signed in the presence of myself, the district attorney and several police officers."

Russo said a formal charge of murder will be filed against Shelton Monday.

16b 1946

Aiken, S. C. (South Carolina)

Man Arrested In Aiken County Double Killing

News and Courier
Charleston, S.C.

Aiken, July 20.—(U.P.) J. D. Harris, 22-year-old Graniteville negro, has confessed to the robbery-murder of an Aiken county storekeeper and his wife last April 26, Sheriff Price Fellaw announced today. Following his confession late last night Harris was taken to the state penitentiary at Columbia for safekeeping.

Fellaw said that according to the negro's confession, Harris, armed with a pistol, walked into the small store near here owned by Lacey Bennett and his wife and after making a small purchase drew the weapon and fired three shots into Bennett. 7-19-46

When Mrs. Bennett ran screaming into the store he fired several more shots and fatally wounded her also. Friday

Fellaw and Constable W. J. Thompson traced Harris to Nashville, Tenn., where he was arrested on Fellaw's warrant Tuesday.

Harris said that although he was armed when he entered the store he had no intention of robbing or shooting anyone, the sheriff said.

"But I got a funny feeling I've never had before," he said. After shooting the proprietor, Harris said, he leaped over the counter and removed Bennett's billfold from his pocket. Next he scooped up what money was in the cash drawer, with his loot totaling about $160.

He said it was while he was cleaning out the cash drawer that Mrs. Bennett ran into the store.

Negro Youth Admits Guilt In Tennessee Slaying And Attack

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.
1-10-46

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 10—(AP)—Dist. Atty. Gen. Will Gerber and Sheriff Oliver Perry jointly announced early today that a 16-year-old Negro schoolboy had confessed the slaying of 1-year-old Sammie Goss.

The sheriff said Fred Jackson admitted after lengthy questioning that he killed the infant who was found lying in the rain with his brutally beaten mother and brother near the smoking ruins of their frame dwelling on the outskirts of Memphis.

A murder charge was filed against Jackson yesterday after the 37-year-old mother, Mrs. I. T. Goss, identified the youth from her hospital bed as her assailant, Perry said.

The attack on the family occurred Tuesday shortly after the father, an employe of an Army depot here, had left for work and four older children had gone to school.

1-10-46

Sheriff Perry made no comment as to the motive of the attack or the origin of the fire.

Both Mrs. Goss and her 3-year-old son, Freddie, were reported in a critical condition at a Memphis hospital. Each suffered a fractured skull and the mother's hands were slashed.

Gerber said the murder charge against the youth was contained in a warrant issued by Probate Judge Sam Bates. He said the warrant was handled through Judge Bates because of a Tennessee law placing jurisdiction over juveniles under 17 accused of murder with a juvenile court.

Second Infant Succumbs In Memphis Attack

Montgomery Advertiser, Ala.
1-12-46

MEMPHIS, Jan. 11.—(AP)—The second infant son of Mrs. I. T. Goss, 37, died today as the result of an attack that left the mother and her babies brutally battered and their home in ashes.

Three-year-old Freddie Goss died in a hospital at 12:20 p.m. without regaining consciousness from blows that fractured his skull.

A brother, Sammie, one, died Tuesday shortly after the mother and two children were found near the debris of their burned-down home on the city's outskirts. Mrs. Goss' condition is "poor."

1-12-46

Meanwhile, Dist. Atty. Gen. Will Gerber said he would ask the death penalty for Fred Jackson, 16-year-old Negro schoolboy, who is charged with first degree murder in connection with the assault.

Negro Said To Admit Attack On Woman

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 11—(AP)—District Atty. Gen. Will Gerber said last night "the state will ask for the extreme penalty" in prosecuting the 16-year-old Negro farmboy who, Sheriff Oliver Perry said, admitted attacking a mother and her two small sons and setting fire to their cottage on the city's outskirts.

Perry said Fred Jackson broke during questioning and made a statement that "criminal assault" was the motive approximately 36 hours after the mother, Mrs. I. T. Goss, and her two children were found lying in a semi-conscious state near the ruins of their frame house, which had been burned to the ground.

1-11-46

One child, Sammie, 1, died shortly after arriving at a hospital. Mrs. Goss is in "poor" condition and her other child, Freddie, 3, was described by hospital authorities as being in a "very critical condition." Both are suffering from skull fractures.

Gerber said: "The case against Fred Jackson involves one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed in this county.

"Although we are ready to try the case now, the date of the trial will depend on the ability of Mrs. Goss to appear and testify. We are hopeful that she will recover rapidly so the case can be disposed of without delay."

1-11-46

The sheriff said Jackson was charged with first-degree murder after he was identified by Mrs. Goss from her hospital bed.

Negro Youth Accused Of Slaying Infant Boy

MEMPHIS, Jan. 9.—(AP)—A slender, 16-year-old Negro faced a first degree murder charge today in the slaying of an infant boy who, with his mother and brother, was beaten brutally and left to die in the smoking ruins of their home.

Dist. Atty. Gen. Will Gerber said the murder charge was filed against Fred Jackson after the Negro schoolboy was identified by the mother, 37-year-old Mrs. I. T. Goss, from her hospital bed.

Gerber said Jackson had been turned over to the sheriff's office to await grand jury action.

Sheriff Oliver Perry and two deputies took the youth this morning to the hospital where one-year-old Sammie Goss died yesterday and where the mother and three-year-old Freddie lie critically injured.

1-10-46

The sheriff said Mrs. Goss, having regained consciousness for the first time in several hours, nodded toward Jackson and declared, "that's him."

Perry said the youth showed no emotion whatever.

Mrs. Goss and her two small boys were found shortly before noon yesterday lying in a semi-conscious state near the smouldering embers of their modest four-room frame dwelling.

Passing workmen took them to the shelter of closeby chicken coops and called ambulances. Sammie died shortly after the three were taken to the hospital suffering skull fractures and lacerations.

The sheriff said the attack apparently took place shortly after the father, an employe of the Army depot here, had left for work and four larger children, ages 10 and 15, had gone to school.

Negro Schoolboy Admits Arson, Criminal Attack

MEMPHIS, Jan. 10—(AP)—Sheriff Oliver Perry said today 16-year-old Fred Jackson, a Negro schoolboy, had admitted attacking a mother and her two small sons and setting fire to their four-room frame dwelling on the city's outskirts.

The sheriff said Jackson made a statement that the motive was "criminal assault."

Mrs. I. T. Goss, 37, and her infant sons, Sammie, 1, and Freddie, 3, were found in a semi-conscious state shortly before noon Tuesday near the smoking ruins of their home. Sammie later died.

Jackson was charged with first degree murder, Perry said, after the mother regained consciousness long enough to identify him from her hospital bed.

Supreme Court Hears Appeal In Memphis Murder Case

Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—(AP)—An assistant attorney-general of Tennessee told the Supreme Court today that if it failed to uphold the conviction of a Memphis man on a charge of procuring the murder of his wife, the State asked that it also set aside the conviction of a Negro convicted of the crime.

2-8-46

The request was made by Nat Tipton, of Nashville, arguing for a second time before the high court an appeal on behalf of E. E. Ashcraft, Memphis drag line operator, and John Ware, the Negro accused of killing Mrs. Ware. Her body was found in a ditch near her home on June 5, 1941.

On an appeal from the second trial, the Supreme Court held that the manner in which Ashcraft was questioned by the staff of District Attorney-General Will Gerber had deprived him of his constitutional rights. It reversed his case and sent that of Ware back for further consideration.

Tipton said today that if Ware were convicted of the murder, there was enough evidence to show Ashcraft was an accessory, without using evidence obtained while he was in the hands of the officers.

But, Tipton said, if Ashcraft were not convicted, the State did not want the verdict to stand against Ware.

Arguing for the defendants, Attorney James F. Bickers and Grover N. McCormick insisted that the third conviction of the men was on the same evidence to which the Supreme Court had objected before.

2-8-46

Bickers said the only evidence not used this time was an unsigned confession attributed to Ashcraft. This time, he said, they used a confession attributed to Ware.

Ask New Trial

Sat. 3-9-46

Boy, 16, Given Death Sentence

Courier
Gettysburg, Pa.

MEMPHIS — (ANP) — Sixteen-year-old Fred Jackson was sentenced to death in the electric chair here last week by an all-white jury in Judge Kinkle's criminal court on charges of slaying two white children, 3-year-old Freddie Goss and his 1-year-old brother, Sammy, on Jan. 8.

Motion for a new trial will be heard March 12. Jackson is the second teen-age Negro youth sentenced to death in Shelby County.

Youth Confesses Attack On Mother, Babies In Memphis

Memphis, Jan. 10 (AP)—A Negro schoolboy has admitted attacking a mother and her two small sons and setting fire to their four-room frame dwelling, Sheriff Oliver Perry said today.

The sheriff said Fred Jackson, 16, had confessed that his motive was "criminal assault."

Mrs. I. T. Goss, 37, and her infant sons, Sammie, one, and Freddie, 3, were found in a semi-conscious state shortly before noon Tuesday near the smoking ruins of their home. Sammie later died.

Jackson was charged with first-degree murder, Perry said, after the mother regained consciousness long enough to identify him.

Negro Runs Amok; Kills 1, Wounds 4

The Advertiser

In Gun Duel With Officers; Former Asylum Inmate

Montgomery, Ala.

MURFREESBORO, TENN., Dec. 16.—(AP)—A city patrolman died here tonight from wounds suffered in a roaring hour of gunplay in which four other policemen were wounded when a Negro went berserk during questioning today by officers. State police headed off possible mob violence after the affray.

The patrolman, Herbert McClanahan, died from a head wound in a hospital at 8 p.m.

The Negro, identified as Edmond Haynes, who was also wounded in the firing, was believed to be a former inmate of the Central State Hospital, an institution for the insane. Records at the hospital listed a man of the same name, age 54, as a former inmate.

Tues.

He had been taken to the city jail on a storekeeper's complaint that he was acting suspiciously in his establishment.

While undergoing questioning by McClanahan, Haynes felled the officer with a bullet through the head, apparently after seizing McClanahan's pistol.

As Hayes ran firing from the City Hall, with a pistol in one hand and a shotgun in the other, he wounded Police Chief N. W. Powers, who was unarmed, in the chest. Powers wound was not serious.

12-17-46

Haynes ran to a house three blocks away where he barricaded himself. After exchanging fire with officers who poured volley after volley into the building for nearly an hour, Haynes came out wounded and with his hands raised.

During the blazing siege of the building Sheriff Earl McKnight of Rutherford County, Fire Chief B. B. (Buck) Qualls of Murfreesboro, and Ray Armstrong, a truck driver, were struck by shotgun slugs. None was hurt seriously, although McKnight required hospitalization.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., Quiet After Gunplay Kills One, Injures Five

The News Birmingham, Ala.
Tues. 12-17-46

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., Dec. 17—(AP)—Murfreesboro was quiet today after yesterday's outbreak of gunplay which resulted in the death of one policeman, the wounding of four other persons and the shooting of a Negro blamed for the trouble.

Police Chief N. W. Powers, himself slightly wounded, said Edmond Haynes, 54, Negro, was removed to Davidson County Jail at Nashville last night as a big crowd milled around the Murfreesboro jail. Haynes, former inmate of an insane asylum, shot a patrolman and wounded four other persons before he was, himself, wounded and surrendered late yesterday.

Chief Powers said warrants had been signed charging Haynes with the murder of Herbert McClanahan, 38, Murfreesboro patrolman who died last night, and with attempt to commit murder against Fire Chief Buck Qualls, Sherifff Earl McKnight and himself.

Haynes fatally shot McClanahan as the patrolman questioned him after a complaint from a storekeeper that the Negro was acting suspiciously around his establishment.

Leaving McClanahan wounded, Haynes ran three blocks to a house and there engaged officers in a gun battle.

Feb 1946 Whites, by Negroes (Texas)

BUS PASSENGER KILLS OFFICER IN BIAS BRAWL

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta Ga.
wed 7-3-46

TYLER, Texas — (ANP) — An unidentified 27-year-old Negro bus passenger furiously protested jim crow bus regulations here last week by fatally stabbing M. J. Buie, a local white policeman, who attempted to force him to move up the rear of the bus or get off.

Managing to escape the melee after being wounded in the abdomen, the furious passenger fled to his father's home near Corsicana in a taxicab. He was later seized there by a 10-man all-white posse on a tip by the Negro taxicab driver, who is reported to have supplied the information under duress.

According to police officers, a cache of arms near his bed plus his effort to use them indicated that he planned to continue the fight. He was wounded again in the insuing gunfight before he was captured and brought here for hospitalization.

ATTEMPT SEIZURE

A white mob made two attempts to form to seize the wounded man as he lay in the hospital but were blocked by a cordon of about 50 police officers, who formed a line around the hospital.

"All it lacked of being a mob," said one of the officers, "was a ring leader." wed. 7-3-46

The crowd started gathering in front of a sub fire station near the outskirts of town. About a half dozen cars arrived at the hospital after police brought the wounded suspect to the hospital.

Speculation is rife here that the wounded man is an ex-GI, who is among the first in this area to vehemently protest jimcrow bus segregation for Negroes.

Youth Admits Epes' Murder, City Police Say

Richmond Times Dispatch
Richmond, Va.
Sun. 5-12-46

Zoot-Suiter Slugged, Robbed Aged Victim

An 18-year-old zoot-clad Negro confessed yesterday to the robbery-slaying of Travis H. Epes, 70-year-old Richmond paper manufacturer, in the early morning of May 2, city detectives announced. Arrest of the youth came only one day after posting of a $200 reward for information on the assailant.

City detectives said the boy, Andrew Woodson Seay, of the 600 block North Tenth St., whom they described as a frequent criminal offender, made a complete confession a short time after he was arrested yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Epes, president of the Epes-Fitzgerald Paper Company, died in a local hospital last Monday of head injuries received when he was attacked at the corner of Eighth and Clay Streets.

Confession Withheld

Detective-Sergeant C. L. Brown, announcing the arrest, declined to disclose full details of the youth's confession, saying "we're still working on this case," but he revealed that Seay, under the guise of helping the elderly manufacturer, had lured Mr. Epes to the corner where the attack occurred. Sun. 5-13-46

Sergeant Brown quoted Seay as saying that he met Mr. Epes in the early morning of May 2 on Ninth Street, west of Leigh Street. Mr. Epes, according to Seay, asked directions to Fourteenth and Main Streets (where his office is located). Under the pretense of walking with Mr. Epes to that location, the youth said he guided him, instead, in what was almost the opposite direction.

At the corner of Eighth and Clay Streets, the officers quoted Seay as saying, he picked up a brick and struck Mr. Epes in the back of the head. When the victim remained standing, Seay said he hit him in the face with his fist and then pushed him to the ground. He then robbed Mr. Epes and left, believing him unconscious, he said.

On Way to Office

Mr. Epes, according to previous reports, had left the apartment of a friend at Eighth and Grace Streets shortly after midnight, May 2, saying he was going "to the office." He was found at 1:15 A. M. at Eighth and Clay.

He was discovered by two bus drivers who were told that he had been attacked by "a big thug—a big Negro." Later he told police that he had been beaten by two "small white men." Seay, who will be 19 years old next month, is of small stature. He is approximately five feet, four inches tall.

Detectives said he was released only recently from the State Reformatory, where he had been sentenced on a house-breaking charge.

VIRGINIA POLICEMAN SLAIN

Times

Chief at Newport News Blames Negroes in Shooting

New York N. Y.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Aug. 11 (AP)—A patrolman, 31 years old, was shot to death here early today after he had arrested two Negroes while investigating a robbery report.

W. F. Peach, acting chief of police, said the patrolman, Charles Nelson Doughty, had responded to a burglary call on the waterfront here and had stopped a Negro man and a Negro woman wearing men's colthes. Man 8-12-46

Patrolman Doughty, the police chief stated, was shot after he had placed the two in his patrol car. The first bullet struck him in the leg, another in the groin and as he fell back against the car he was shot again in the stomach, chief Peach said.

The policeman said Margaret Jackson, 20, Negro, was being held on a charge of larceny and accessory to murder. He said an intensive search was under way for the man, who fled after the shooting.

Pair Held In Murder Of Marylander

Times Dispatch

Victim's Slashed Body Found Near Accomac

Richmond, Va.

ACCOMAC, July 25—(AP)—A routine checkup by Virginia Beach police on two young Negroes detained on a traffic charge led to the discovery near here today of the body of a 46-year-old Salisbury, Md., filling station operator and carpenter, and the arrest of the Negroes on charges of murder.

The body of George Samuel Broughton, missing from his home since Monday night, was found by Sheriff E. P. Parks, of Accomack County, in woods five miles north of the town of Accomac at 5:30 A. M., five yards from a side road which branches off Route 13. Broughton's skull was fractured and there were two deep gashes on the neck which Parks said appeared to have been inflicted with a broken bottle. An empty wallet lay near the body.

The Negroes, James Fletcher, 24, who was quoted by R. E. Johnson, identification officer of the Virginia Beach police, as admitting he killed Broughton, and Robert Holland, 22, both of Salisbury, were charged with murder in warrants obtained by Commonwealth's Attorney E. Almer Ames, Jr., of Accomack County. 7-26-46

Ames and Deputy Sheriffs Warner T. Davis and R. G. Finney, of Accomack County, went to Virginia Beach to return the prisoners here where they probably will be given a preliminary hearing before County Trial Justice L. Brooks Smith next week. Tues.

Acted as Chauffeur

The Virginia Beach identification officer said that Fletcher told him he killed Broughton while serving the Salisbury man as chauffeur in Accomack County Tuesday morning. Sheriff Parks, of Accomack County, said one of Broughton's arms was in a cast and that it had been theorized he had asked one of the Negroes to drive for him.

Fletcher was arrested Tuesday night on Seventeenth Street, Virginia Beach, following a complaint of reckless driving. The arrest was made by Virginia Beach Officers R. K. Halstead and Clyde Simon, whose routine investigations showed that Fletcher had no driver's permit and no registration card for the car he was driving. Holland was in the car with Fletcher at the time. 7-26-46

Officers Halstead and Simon began a search to learn the ownership of the car and found it was owned by Broughton. Officer Johnson said today Holland had been released by police officers soon after he and Fletcher were arrested. However, within 24 hours after Fletcher's arrest, Holland voluntarily went to the Virginia Beach police headquarters and told of Broughton's slaying on the Eastern Shore.

Johnson added that Fletcher then admitted he had killed Broughton while serving as the latter's chauffeur while Holland also was riding as a passenger in the car, owned by Broughton. Johnson said both Negroes told him they had concealed Broughton's body in some woods near a church not far from Parksley, about 45 miles from Cape Charles. Johnson said the two Negro prisoners also admitted that an undetermined amount of cash and a watch were taken from Broughton's body. Broughton's head had been crushed by blous and his throat had been cut, according to Sheriff Parks, of Accomack County.

Parks said both Negroes were charged with the slaying of Broughton, although Fletcher was the man who admitted he had done the actual killing.

16c 1946

N.C. Man Freed 10 Years After Being Doomed to Die for Theft

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

RALEIGH, N.C.—Condemned to die in the gas chamber at Central prison, here, for first-degree burglary in Gaston County in March, 1936, Frank Armstrong was paroled last week by Governor Cherry, along with 13 other prisoners, according to Parole Commissioner Hathaway Cross.

Saved from death, Armstrong was commuted to life imprisonment. Later, this was reduced to a 20-year prison term. Cross said that by adding good behavior to his term, Armstrong had served 15 years of his sentence. Sat. 11-23-46

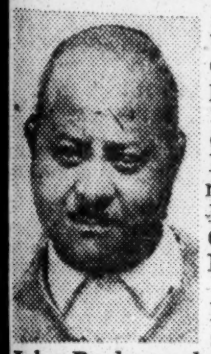
Among the others paroled were Spurgeon Chambles, who was serving eight years for a second-degree murder conviction in Hertford County in 1944, and Willie McKay, who was sentenced to 20 to 25 years for the second-degree murder of Alta McKay in Hartnett County in January, 1935.

16c 1946

Deny Roxborough Prison Parole

The American Baltimore Md.

LANSING, Mich.—The Michigan State Board of Pardons and Paroles early this week turned down an application for parole filed by counsel for John Roxborough, former manager of Heavy weight Champion Joe Louis. 2-9-46



John Roxborough

Roxborough has been in prison since Nov. 29, 1944, serving a two-and-one-half-year sentence for conspiracy in connection with the Detroit policy racket. Normally he would not be eligible for parole until October 4, 1946.

The request for a parole hearing was made through Roxborough's attorneys, whose purpose, apparently, is to bring about the release in time for Roxborough to witness the Louis-Conn titular battle June 19.

Call Parole Board Head Biased

Chicago Defender Chicago, Ill.

BOSTON, Mass. — The Negro chairman of the state parole board was flayed this week by legislators for h. alleged favoritism to Negro prisoners in state institutions.

Reports from a hearing before the public welfare commission of the legislature said solons, whose names were not disclosed, launched a bitter attack on Matthew W. Bullock, chairman of the board.

Defending Bullock was former Senator Harold R. Lundgren of Worcester, now on the parole board who said, "If anything, Negro prisoners charge him with favoring white prisoners over Negroes." Sat 3-2-46.

"I have never served with a finer fairer or more just man than Bullock," he continued, adding "The board never considers color, race or religion, but tries to judge only on the record and question of rehabilitation of the prisoner."

ALABAMA'S PAROLE SYSTEM

Birmingham News, Ala.

THESE CAME BACK, by Mary Ruth Graham. Published by Bureau of Public Administration, University of Alabama; 104 pages. Sat. 3-11-46

The sub-title of this book is "A Study of Alabama Parolees," which more aptly hits the tone of the very factual analysis of what happens to state prisoners paroled by the Board of Pardons and Paroles and why it happens to them. The book is a careful and thorough study of the parole system as it is working in Alabama. Sat. 3-11-46

It adds very little to the comprehensive study of paroles contained in Volume IV of "The Attorney General's Survey of Release Procedures," published by the Department of Justice in 1939. However, it applies many of the conclusions reached in that study to particular Alabama problems. Furthermore, since the study of parole prediction is relatively new, additional evidence, even if it is no more than corroborative, is valuable. Continued explanation of this very important matter is desirable.

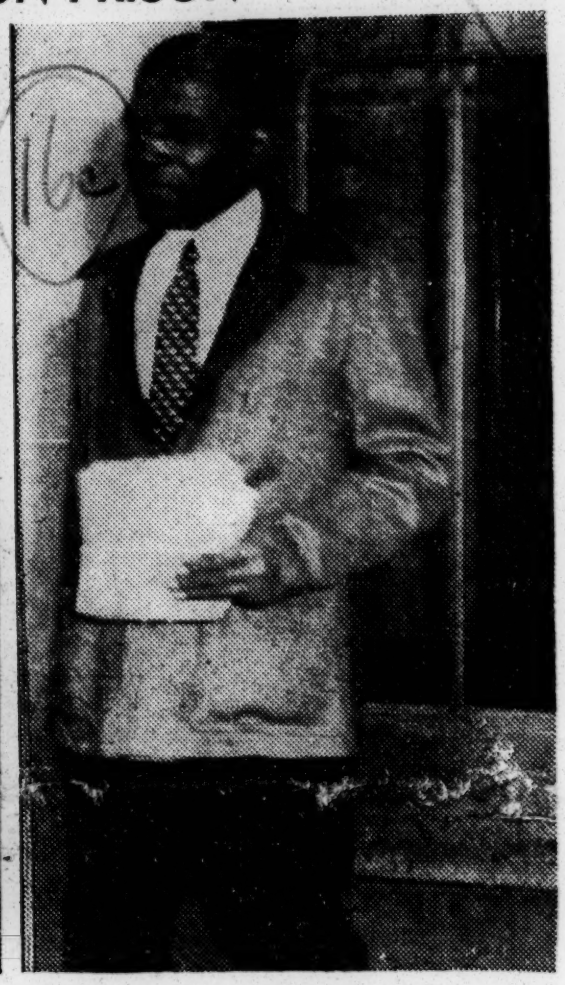
The study of the Alabama parole system covers only the first five years of the board's operations (1939-1944). Because, in the first year or two, the Parole Board acted on an accumulation of cases, "These Came Back" probably shows some variations that would not be apparent in a study of the second five years. Nevertheless, the quantitative results are soundly analyzed.

Fastors favoring success or failure in parole include such things as race, sex, age, education, mentality, health, place of residence (whether urban or rural), marital status, family background, occupation, property ownership, behavior in prison, criminal record and length of sentence. Negroes, it was found, are more apt to keep their parole promises than whites, women more than men, and older criminals more than younger ones. The composite successful parolee is more than 35, married, a property owner, a rural dweller, has more than one child, was convicted of a crime after he had reached the age of 30, had a clean criminal and prison record, received a short sentence and served a short term. Fifty-six tables make the study easier to understand and the conclusions more readily available. Sat. 3-11-46

"These Came Back" should prove very helpful as a guide to all persons with any degree of responsibility for the successful operation of Alabama's parole system. Perhaps the study errs, however, in not making clear the danger of depending too much on quantitative results in the analysis of parole outcomes. No matter how extensive a study of this sort may be, parole boards must continue to individualize their treatment of applicants for parole. Human beings, not even, or especially, prisoners, cannot be put into definite categories of predictable behavior. — J. F. ROTHERMEL.

LEAVING JACKSON PRISON





John Roxborough, left, and Everett Watson, right, as they left Jackson Prison last Friday morning at 10:30. Newsmen waited over three hours for the noted pair to be released.

A woman who has served 19 years in prison for the 1927 slaying of Rosaline Henderson was paroled by the State Parole Board.

Mrs. Mary Lee Bishop, 45, formerly of 694 Theodore, was serving a life sentence for the Dec. 27, 1927, slaying of Mrs. Henderson. Governor Kelly commuted her sentence last month. She was serving her sentence in the Detroit House of Correction.

Long Trail Ends For Roxborough, Watson In Early Morning Drama

The Chronicle Detroit, Mich.

Sat. 10-12-46

By CHARLES J. WARTMAN

JACKSON — Newsmen, photographers, relatives and friends began gathering at Jackson prison as early as 7:30 a.m. last Friday to be on hand when John W. Roxborough and Everett E. Watson were released after serving 18 months of two to four-year terms.

The long trail which started with the Ferguson Grand Jury in 1940 had come to an end for the two former policy kings, who through appeals and delays had staved off prison until 1944.

Waiting An Ordeal

Although the actual release of the two men took place in the short space of 10 or 15 minutes, Roxborough leaving the gates about 10:30 a.m. and Watson about 10:40 a.m., it was quite an ordeal for those who were waiting.

Mrs. Roxborough arrived at approximately 8 o'clock with Mrs. Watson following around 8:30 a.m. The releases were scheduled for nine or shortly after.

Louis Absent

The presence of a large number of the onlookers was due to earlier reports that Joe Louis would be present. His absence did not detract from the drama of the occasion.

Roxborough, manager of world's heavyweight champion Joe Louis, had a mingled expression of nervousness, relief and happiness. He told reporters that he had no comments to make about anything until he had had a chance to talk with Joe. However, he did stop for a few minutes outside the gate to greet friends and chat off the record with members of the press whom he knew. The Chronicle

He was driven to Detroit by his wife, Mrs. Wilhelmina Roxborough, and her brother, Radford Morris. Watson, who followed Roxborough in about 10 minutes, walked erect with rapid strides. So fast did he walk that photographers had difficulty in taking pictures of him. Detroit, Mich.

As he left the steps in front of the prison he shook hands with the Rev. Mr. Walls, chaplain of the prison and said, "Goodbye Chaplain." It was the only statement he made before entering his car in which Mrs. Watson was waiting to drive him to their farm east of Jackson. Sat. 10-12-46

Woman Lifer Is Paroled After 19 Years In Prison

The Chronicle Detroit, Mich

Sat. 10-5-46

Parole Violation Charged To Wright

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 22 -- (AP)—Andy Wright, one of the Negroes involved in the "Scottsboro case," was returned to Kilby Prison today charged with violating his parole.

A hearing will be held before the State Pardon-Parole Board probably on Nov. 5, to determine whether Wright must resume serving his 99-year sentence for rape or whether his parole is reinstated, said Board Secretary L. B. Stephens. Tues. 10-22-46

Wright was convicted in July, 1937, along with three others of the nine Negroes originally charged with raping two white women on a freight train in March 25, 1931. Paroled on Jan. 5, 1944, he was declared delinquent 10 days ago and taken into custody here yesterday, Stephens said.

Stephens said a warrant for Wright's arrest was issued after he was discharged from his job in Montgomery and left the state. He said the Negro told authorities he had gone to Chattanooga, but returned to Montgomery voluntarily.

In the first trial after the nine "Scottsboro" Negroes were charged with rape, eight of them were sentenced to death. The verdicts were overturned on appeal, however, and in final proceedings four were sentenced to prison for rape; four were acquitted, and the ninth was convicted of assaulting a deputy sheriff who was transferring him from one prison to another.

Wright was returned to Kilby less than a month after another Negro, Clarence Norris, was paroled.

Scottsboro Case Negro Is Paroled

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Only One Of Nine Still In Penitentiary

Wed. 9-27-46

Clarence Norris, Negro, one of the "Scottsboro boys," was one of 14 applicants granted parole during the week ending Sept. 26, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles announced yesterday.

Norris was one of nine Negroes originally held for the rape of two white women on a train near Scottsboro nearly 15 years ago. Charges against five of the nine Negroes were dropped and four were convicted. Fri.

Originally sentenced to the electric chair, Norris had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment in July, 1938. He began serving his sentence in July, 1937.

Of the four sentenced to prison, two were previously released. L. B. Stephens, secretary to the Pardons and Paroles Board, said yesterday, leaving only Haywood Patterson still serving a term.

Among the 14 receiving paroles were nine Negroes and five white men. Thirty-seven applications for parole were denied.

SCOTTSBORO CASE PAROLE GRANTED

The Sun
New York, N. Y.
Fri. 9-27-46

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 27 (A. P.).—Clarence Norris, one of the Scottsboro case Negroes, has been freed from prison on parole, leaving only one still behind bars.

The State Pardon-Parole Board announced Norris's release yesterday and said that of the original nine Negroes, only Haywood Patterson remains in prison.

The Negroes, all from Alabama, were charged with raping two white women on a freight train on March 25, 1931. The first trial, held at Scottsboro, produced sentences of death in the electric chair for eight of the defendants. Fri.

These verdicts were overturned on appeal, and in final proceedings four were freed outright and four were convicted of rape and given prison terms. The ninth was sentenced for assaulting a deputy sheriff who was transferring him from one prison to another.

The parole board said Norris received a life sentence and when paroled had served nine years.

Scottsboro Defendant Case Victim Wins Parole

Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 10-5-46

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — After serving nine years on a phony rape charge which was dropped before he was convicted, Clarence Norris, one of nine defendants in the infamous Scottsboro case, was last week granted a parole from the state penitentiary.

Thus Norris, who with eight other youths barely escaped the electric chair in 1931, received mock-justice after he had lost 15 years of his life. His release leaves only one of the defendants, Haywood Patterson, remaining in prison.

The Scottsboro case, one of the most widely publicized in the history of U. S. trials, had its beginning March 25, 1931, when nine youths were arrested in Scottsboro, Ala., on charges of having raped two white women vagrants on a freight train.

Prior to their arrest, the nine Alabamans had fought a number of white men aboard the moving train. When the train stopped at Scottsboro, the white men encouraged the two white women, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, to tell police that the Negroes had raped them. The two women readily agreed to the plot in order to escape arrest as vagrants.

First "Lawrenceburg"

An earlier version of the trial now being conducted at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., sentenced the youths to death in the electric chair. An appeal was taken on the ground that the defendants did not have proper legal representation. Upon reaching the U. S. Supreme Court the sentences were reversed and the cases remanded for new trial.

A change of venue was granted and the trial was moved to Decatur, Ala., where death sentences were again pronounced for eight of the race hate victims. One of the youths was declared a juvenile, thus escaping the death sentence.

Charges of systematic exclusion of Negroes from jury service were upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court and the trial was again returned to Alabama for new trial.

Chicago, Ill

At this time, Ruby Bates repudiated her former testimony that she and Victoria Price had been attacked by the nine youths and exposed the State's role in the plot to send the boys to the electric chair. Victoria Price, however, would not change her testimony, despite a physician's statement that no rape had occurred. Sat. 10-5-46

Deplorable And Discouraging

Birmingham News 2-13-46

The shooting of a Negro ex-service man by a Brighton police officer was a very unfortunate occurrence tending to add to the tensions of a situation that can be improved only if all persons continually keep in mind the need of cooperation and tolerance and understanding.

There are many elements in the case, all of which can be aggravated harmfully by undue yielding to emotion. 2-12-46

Segregation was a factor in the case. Apparently the Negro did not understand that one of the purposes of segregation is to prevent incidents like that which culminated in his death. Perhaps, in this case, the segregation sign was unwisely placed. Not all employes on public transportation vehicles are fair and impartial—and probably cannot always be—in attending to the movable signs that separate the races. From the published evidence in this case, it is not clear whether there was any provocation for the Negro's action in moving the sign himself.

The Negro is reported to have been belligerent in the matter. His attitude was wrong for many reasons, one of which is that it hurt the cause of steadily building up better race relations through cooperative efforts.

Another factor in the situation was the fact that the Negro was unarmed, both in his fight with the streetcar conductor and at the time of his arrest. He had no gun when he was shot by the officer. It is always a serious matter when a police officer kills an unarmed prisoner in his custody.

The Negro apparently was not searched for a weapon immediately upon his arrest. Generally the first thing a policeman does after making an arrest involving violence is to "frisk" the prisoner for weapons. There should have been no reason to fear, after the Negro was in the police car, that he was reaching for a gun. 2-12-46

The coroner's verdict that the slaying of the prisoner was justified should not end the matter. There should be further official investigation.

Finding In Negro's Slaying Is Upheld

Birmingham Post

The finding of "justifiable homicide," returned by Coroner J. T. McCollum in the fatal shooting of Timothy Hood, Negro, 208 Exeter Avenue, Bessemer, Friday night, after an altercation on a Bessemer streetcar, was concurred in by Arthur Green, Jefferson County solicitor, Bessemer Cutoff, yesterday.

Soliciton Green said investigation by his office showed the Negro, a discharged Marine Corps veteran, was shot by Police Chief E. B. Fant, of Brighton, when, as the officer attempted to arrest him, the Negro reached toward his hip pocket as if to draw a gun. 2-13-46

Solicitor Green said Chief Fant attempted to arrest the Negro, after an altercation between the Negro and W. R. Weeks, 616 16th Street, Southwest, motorman on a Bessemer streetcar, in which the Negro suffered three superficial gunshot wounds, and the motorman suffered lacerations and bruises.

MOBILE POLICE CLUB NEGRO EDITOR WHO EXPOSES RAPE OF WOMEN AND LOCAL MURDERS

Arrested on Fake Charge, Is Subjected To Inhuman Treatment in Court

VOTE REGISTRANT SLUGGED

Black Press

MOBILE, Ala. — (ANP) — A race-hate crusade, characterized by attacks against minority groups in various sections of the country with special emphasis on attempts to curb such gains as the Negro made during the years of World War II, when he was needed to work and fight, was crystallized here with the arrest last week of a Negro editor for writing against police brutality. Sat. 6 8-46

The series of attacks against democracy in recent months includes the slaying of two Negro soldiers in Freeport, R. I., a storm trooping program through the Negro district of Columbia, Tenn., re-activation of the Ku Klux Klan and the recent arrest of a Little Rock Negro editor, L. C. Bates, because he dared to use the American privilege of "free speech." The local incident occured here last week when I. H. Rhone, editor and publisher of the Gulf Informer, local weekly newspaper, was arrested.

Rhone, charged with allegedly operating without a license, was taken into court and made a target of the police brutality he had rapped in a recent editorial. The editorial, which centered attention on the violent anti-Negro attitude reflected in a series of reported beatings, rape of Negro women, and even slaying traced to the local police department, had been brutally attacked in the county register by a city patrolman.

Rivers, according to reports, was cruelly assaulted by a Patrolman Bartlett after he had attempted to vouch for some friends attempting to get registered, and had refused to discuss his mission at the registry office with the policeman. The patrolman, heading an anti-Negro group an hand to keep Negroes from registering, struck the elderman with a blackjack, rushed him from the building, and knocked him to the ground outside.

Stunned and bleeding from the attack, Rivers was escorted from the scene by a group of whites, and incident was narrowly everted by selfcontrol on the part of the Negroes involved.

Rhone, who protested this action in his editorial, met with the same type of abuse, he says, during the period of his detention by police. As he awaited his release on bail he reports facing a verbal attack by Chief of Police Dudley E. McFadden, who spoke to him in the "vilest language imaginable." During the violent tirade, McFadden threatened a suit against the Informer as a "mass fabrication of damn niggers lies," Rhone said.

Racial feeling in Mobile, already tense about the unwaranted treatment of Rivers, now is highly inflamed. The Rhone incident has roused representatives of the ministry, the NAACP, and civic-minded citizens to action for a clean sweep in local municipal administration. J. L. LeFlore, executive secretary of the Mobile branch of the NAACP, announced that legal steps would be taken against the police department as soon as Rivers is able to appear in court.

Although under fire for the brutal and Gestapo-like tactics employed by his staff, Chief McFadden on Monday had refused to suspend Bartlett, and it was reliably reported that the department was continuing to vent rage upon helpless Negroes.

Wrote Against Racial Brutality

Claim Mobile Editor Was Hate Drive Victim

Crumi

MOBILE, Ala.—(ANP)—A race-hate crusade, characterized by attacks against minority groups in varied sections of the country with special emphasis on attempts to curb such gains as the Negro made during the years of World War II when he was needed to work and fight, was crystallized here with the arrest last week of a Negro editor for writing against police brutality.

Schuyler

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ASSAULTED, CLAIMS

Pittsburgh Courier

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NAACP Asks U. S. To Probe Rivers Beating In Mobile

Pittsburgh Courier

NEW YORK—Demand for an immediate federal probe into the brutal police-beating of 74-year-old Napoleon Rivers in Mobile, Ala., was made this week by Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel.

A telegram to Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, pointed out that Rivers was beaten May 6 by Policeman Edward Bartlett at the Mobile board of registrars while seeking to qualify Negro registrants under constitutional laws of the United States.

Rivers, confined to City Hospital with a fractured skull, jaw and other injuries, was the latest victim of southern attempts to keep Negroes from exercising voting rights through program of terror.

The telegram stated that Bartlett, acting as a police officer, and exerting apparent state authority, beat Rivers to prevent him from exercising his rights.

Chicago

Investigation by the FBI and the governor of Alabama had previously been demanded while Rivers, confined to the hospital, was technically held in custody for "resisting arrest" and "disorderly conduct."

Eyewitnesses said repeatedly that the attack was entirely unprovoked and represented the anti-Negro attitude common in the area.

Man, 74, Beaten by Ala. Cop, Fined

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

MOBILE, Ala. — Napoleon Rivers, 74, was fined $100 for disorderly conduct and $50 for resisting arrest, here, recently, after he had been beaten by a white policeman outside of the county board of Registration.

The arresting officer, Edward Bartlett, 22, a former amateur boxer told Recorder Neville Leigh, 3rd, that the elderly Rivers, too weak to stand in court that he had made a motion to strike him, so he hit him twice with his club.

Defendant to Appeal

His attorneys, C. M. A. Rogers and D. R. Colev, gave notice that they were filing an appeal. He denied being disorderly or resisting arrest, and he told the court that he had been confined in City Hospital for several weeks as a result of a broken jaw and possibly fractured skull.

Rivers, testifying, declared that he had asked permission to enter the office to see a person and had been refused. A resident of Mobile for 53 years, Rivers had had character witnesses of both to testify for him.

Sick Woman Jailed By Police

By FRED ATWATER

MOBILE, Ala.—A grief stricken young mother, imprisoned for seven days while still weak from pre-mature childbirth, was the victim this week of gestapo-like Southern justice, which set a unique pattern of torture for the parent of a mysteriously missing infant.

Following the traditional motif that a Negro is automatically a criminal, police here gave the tragic old story a grim new twist when they rolled Mrs. Mary Lee Drakeford, 18, to prison in a wheel chair a few days after her hours-old baby disappeared from a hospital nursery.

Whereabouts of the seven-months baby, which weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces at birth, are still unknown. Through the efforts of the CIO and the NAACP, the case is now being probed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The child was born at 6:45 a. m. last March 24 at City hospital here. Some time before 3:30 that afternoon the infant disappeared from the colored nursery in the hospital. The crib is said to have been found empty at that time by a nurse.

Not until 5 o'clock that afternoon, —when the father, 26-year-old Eugene Drakeford, arrived to see his new-born son—were the parents told of the disappearance.

Called in by hospital authorities, Mobile police made a pretence of questioning hospital attendants, but directed their main fire at the parents.

A week later, Mrs. Drakeford, still confined to bed, was arrested on an open charge known as 1001. She told the Defender that, as she lay weak and helpless in the maternity ward, a nurse ordered her to "put on my gown and housecoat, the only pieces of clothing I had at the hospital at that time." She was then put into a wheel chair and rolled out to a patrol car.

In the meantime Mobile CIO secretary John C. O'Brien had enlisted the aid of the Department of Justice and the NAACP legal staff through the CIO Washington office.

Mrs. Drakeford remained in jail a week without learning the charge against her. Questioned for five hours, she had a relapse the first evening and was unable to walk for three days. She was released on bond posted by her husband. A court hearing scheduled for Saturday was passed because of her condition.

A hearing before City Recorder William Bekurs May 11, resulted in dropping of charges against Mrs. Drakeford because city authorities had failed to establish a case against her or to show cause why she should be detained.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Leo Maltzer of the Civil Liberties Division of the Department of Justice assured the CIO office there that the FBI had been "instructed and authorized to make an investigation." No results have been announced as yet.

Irate Ala. Police Arrest Publisher

War-Anderson

MOBILE, Ala—Freedom of the press suffered a major assault here, last week, with the arrest of I. H. Rhone, editor and publisher of the Gulf Informer, because he dared editorially to criticize the local police department. 6-8-46

Rhone was charged with operating without a license and was subjected to a tirade of abuse from the chief of police, D. E. McFadden, after he had written an editorial denouncing the police beating of a colored citizen in a city registration office. Baltimore

In that case, the man, Mr. Rivers, who was trying to assist some friends to register, was struck, rushed out of the building and beaten to the ground by a policeman with a blackjack. N.Y.

Abused by Chief

Mr. Rhone, after protesting those Gestapo-like tactics in his paper, was haled into the plice station, where the chief of police threatened suit against the paper as a "mass fabrication of damn n---r lies." 6-8-46

The Rhone incident has aroused representatives of the ministry, the NAACP, and civic minded citizens to action for a clean sweep in local municipal administration.

Whitewash Case Of Missing Baby

The Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Attempt To Clear Police Laid To FBI

Sat. 7-13-46

MOBILE, Ala.—An FBI investigation into the mysterious disappearance of the new-born child of Mrs. Mary Lee Drakeford from a local hospital last March, bogged down in an obvious whitewash attempt here last week.

The 18-year-old mother accused Justice Department agents assigned to the case of attempting the whitewash to absolve Mobile police of "unlawful restraint" charges filed in her behalf by the NAACP and the CIO, because of her arrest shortly after the infant disappeared. Mrs. Drakeford refused to sign a statement prepared by FBI agents, because an explanation of her efforts to contact persons able to aid her during her imprisonment was not included in the deposition.

Too Weak To Phone

In her complaint against the FBI, Mrs. Drakeford charged she was asked by agents if she tried to call anyone to help her while she was in the city jail. She said she made it plain that at the time she was too weak to phone, but had asked two women inmates to call for her. The women refused, saying they were afraid of being abused by police if they asked for permission to use a phone.

Mrs. Drakeford asserted it was significant that the FBI included that part of her testimony which showed she did not call for aid, without explaining the reasons for it.

The Drakeford infant vanished from the Negro nursery of the City Hospital here, last March, a few hours after its birth. Six days later, the mother, who was still confined to bed in the maternity ward, was taken into police custody on an open charge and held in the city jail for several days, despite her weakened condition. After the Mobile CIO council began a fight for her freedom she was released on a bond signed by her husband, Eugene.

Five Hour Third Degree

The sick woman was subjected to a five hour third degree ordeal by police the first day of her arrest. They sought to "wring a confession" from her that she knew what happened to her baby. As a result of the gruelling experience, Mrs. Drakeford suffered a relapse.

CIO officials here, who began the fight for her release stated that their first request for an FBI investigation met with a strong rebuff. Since the parties concerned were Negroes, it was made plain to them that there was no reason for them to be concerned, they said.

NAACP Enters Case

The Mobile CIO then directed an appeal for assistance to the national office of the organization in Washington. High ranking officials of the labor movement brought the matter to the Department of Justice. At the request of the CIO, the NAACP legal staff also entered the case.

An investigation of charges that the Mobile police were guilty of unlawful restraint in jailing Mrs. Drakeford was ordered by the Justice Department.

In Mobile the local NAACP employed counsel to defend the bewildered young mother. When her case was called for trial she was exonerated of having any part in the strange disappearance of her baby.

T. C. I. Police Officer Shoots Negro Suspect

The News

Birmingham, Ala.

William Daniels, 21, Negro, 5606 Avenue F, was in critical condition at T. C. I. Hospital Saturday after having been shot in the chest by Westfield Camp Deputy J. W. Vanderford, E. L. Allman, chief of the Fairfield Police Department reported. Sun. 12-22-46

Chief Allman said Deputy Vanderford shot Daniels once after the Negro, apprehended for questioning in regards to a complaint made by a white woman employe of the T. C. I. Westfield commissary, had reached in his coat pocket.

The police chief said Vandenford was holding Daniels for questioning after being called to the commissary on a complaint the Negro had "made some insulting remarks."

Meeting on police brutality to be held in mayor's office

The next meeting of the Los Angeles Committee for Home Front Unity will be held in the office of Mayor Fletcher Bowron this Thursday, 12:30 p.m., and will concern the problem of police brutality and the relationships of the police department to minority groups.

The Home Front Unity group has been discussing these problems with the police department and representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, local branch. The local press will be represented.

PASTOR CHARGES BEATING BY LOS ANGELES COPS

LOS ANGELES (ANP).—The Rev. Freeman Coley, here conducting prayer services at the Rev. Clayton D. Russell's Independent Church of Christ, was beaten and jailed by two plainclothes men last week, in what citizens believe to be a new outbreak of police brutality.

North is terrorized by mass arrests

SAN FRANCISCO — The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California today announced it has wired Attorney General Tom Clark, calling for an investigation by the U. S. Attorney's office in San Francisco of alleged violation of the federal Civil Rights statute in Solano county. The Union charged that deputy sheriffs, without warrants, last Friday and Saturday searched countless homes of Negroes residing in Chabot Terrace housing project and, also without warrants, picked up between 100 and 500 Negroes in their homes and on the streets and held them in a substation for questioning in connection with the murder of a groceryman last Friday noon. There are conflicting reports that the murderers were colored men.

The Union charges that at the request of the sheriff of Solano county, James Richardson, executive secretary of the Vallejo Public Housing authority, told the project director to turn over the master keys of apartments occupied by Negroes at Chabot Terrace to the sheriff's deputies.

Without knocking, the sheriff's men unlocked apartments and searched for guns and suspects. Colored men who were found at home were seized and taken to a sub-station for questioning. A colored man, and his wife, arriving home in their car from a movie, were apprehended at gun point because a gun for which the man had a license, was found in his apartment.

One Negro claims deputies took some of his money in searching him, and the same man shows a cut lip and bruised shins allegedly received when he failed to answer questions to the satisfaction of a deputy. Upon being released from custody, he said he telephoned a complaint to the sheriff's office concerning the treatment he received, and was requested to make a report to the sub-station. Upon reporting there he was detained for 24 hours. Another Negro was picked up in his home and while returning home after being released he was again taken into custody and questioned by different officers, it is claimed.

The Union's appeal to Attorney General Clark was made in conformance with a directive he issued to all U. S. Attorneys last March, following the Columbia, Tennessee, case, in which he stated, in part:

"It is my desire that you immediately devote special attention and investigation to protection of all Americans in their civil liberties, regardless of race or color. Special attention should be paid to laxity or inefficiency of peace officers of any category.

"I am seeking to determine the causes of potential disorders, no matter how minor they may seem. In these days of rapid transmission of information, an outbreak in one locality might well inspire a similar condition in another. I desire that you acquaint peace and law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and local governmental authorities with the fact that every resource at my command will be used to prevent such outbreaks, and that when and if they occur every effort will be made to prosecute those responsible. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be used unsparingly to effect this end."

Preacher freed of charges of beating police

Officers who accused the Rev. Freeman Coley, of Independent church, of battery received sharp reproof last week when municipal court judge Arthur L. Guerin found Coley not guilty and strongly hinted that officers had been out of line.

The Rev. Coley was accused by the officers of striking them when they attempted to search his cafe at 131 S. San Pedro on a "routine vice raid."

But the tables were turned when his attorney, Walter L. Gordon Jr., told the court that, "The brutality in this case did not originate with Rev. Coley, but rather with officers J. E. Matthews and Sgt. W. H. Madden.

He charged the two policemen had brutally beaten Coley, who is 40-years-old and lives at 325 E. 2nd st. Gordon said his client suffered four fractured ribs.

The officers said that when they entered the cafe, Rev. Coley told them: "I don't give a damn who you are—you can't use this place for a passageway."

Then, they said, he beat and kicked them, and they were required to "over-power him."

Judge Guerin said it was "quite strange" the police first took Coley to their "office" in the central jail, rather than to the hospital.

Mechanic, shot by police, charged with assault

Otto Searcy, 23-year-old mechanic who was shot by police last week in a battle over his arrest, ha shimself been charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

First Searcy stabbed his pretty 18-year-old wife, Mrs. Ruth Searcy, with an ice pick, police say. The couple, separated "beacuse we just couldn't live together quarreling all the time", engaged in the fight at 1333 E. First st., at the home of friends of Mrs. Searcy.

Police officers R. W. Richards and Cooper, who attempted to arrest Searcy, said that the suspect kept his hand in his pocket, and pretended to be "drawing a gun."

After a battle of nerves, Richards says he was struck by a chair thrown by Searcy, and that Cooper then fired a single shot, which hit Searcy in the chest.

An investigation revealed Searcy had no gun on his person. The officers say he may have been under the influence of narcotics.

Grocer Slain, Calif. Cops Mob Families

NEW YORK—NAACP officials are planning to investigate the action of, and prosecute, law enforcement officers in Vallejo, Calif, who, last Friday night, invaded a colored Federal housing project without warrants, and terrorized over 100 families.

The San Francisco NAACP branch reported that the Gestapo-like descent on the families was made in a search for suspects after a grocer was killed near the project. The officers entered 100 homes and arrested 100 suspects, all of whom were released.

The project manager allegedly gave the master key to the deputies who, following the pattern recently at Columbia, Tenn., broke into the homes each of which had a different lock. The suspects were beaten and slugged.

L.A. Police Victim Sues For $252,440

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Accused of stealing his own car and shot in the abdomen by a city policeman, Major Carter, 58-year-old father of seven children this week filed suit for damages of $252,440.

The attack occurred last February, according to the complaint, as Carter, a cement contractor, was getting out of his car in front of his home.

"I was accosted by three policemen," Carter stated, "one of whom asked me 'what are you doing getting out of that car?'" The officer then shot me in the abdomen, he said.

"After the shooting they picked me up and threw me into the police wagon and drove me to the Newton street police station—because they suspected me of stealing my own car," Carter concluded.

Contractor Sues Calif. Policeman

LOS ANGELES (ANP)—Court action against the City of Los Angeles, asking damages of $102,440 for wounds sustained by local contractor after he allegedly was shot by a city policeman, was filed here recently.

The suit charges E. N. Walker, a white city policeman, with shooting Major Carter, the contractor, who declared a shot from Walker's gun felled him as he attempted to enter his automobile.

A city deputy attorney, repudiating the case, commented that the city is not responsible for cases against police officers. "If Carter has any action, it is a civil action against the officer," he said.

Police Held Trigger-Happy

Hugh McBeth, attorney for Carter who was successful in breaking down Holly Legion Stadium boxing jim-crow, said that white policemen are trigger-happy when it comes to what they think of "bad colored people."

Walker declares that on the night of the shooting he identified himself as a police officer four times, and then regarding Carter as a suspect "shot him in the belly."

$100,000 Police Brutality Suit

LOS ANGELES — (A N P) — Court action against the City of Los Angeles, asking damages of $102,440 for wounds sustained by a local contractor after he allegedly was shot by a city policeman, was filed here last week.

The suit, charging E. N. Walker, a white city policeman, with the February 7 shooting, was filed by Hugh McBeth lawyer for Major Carter. The contractor declares a shot from Walker's gun felled him as he attempted to enter his automobile parked in a service station less than 100 feet from his home.

CIVIL ACTION SEEN

A city deputy attorney, repudiating the case, commented that the city is not responsible for cases against police officers. 'If Carter has any action, it is a civil action against the officer," he said.

McBeth, who was successful in breaking down Holly Legion Stadium boxing jim-crow, said last week white policemen are trigger-happy when it comes to what they think of as a search for "bad Negroes."

Walker declares that on the night of the shooting he identified himself as a police officer four times, and then regarding Carter as a suspect "shot him in the belly."

Atty. Fred N. Howser said his office will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any case coming before him involving mistreatment of citizens by officers of the law.

Mrs. Galloway is out on bond and is scheduled to answer charges on Nov. 22. Meanwhile police investigators are said to be looking

Atty. Gordon said his office is "going all out" to ascertain what rights have been denied and heavy damages will be asked. District

Los Angeles Cops Insult, Beat Woman

LOS ANGELES—This "City of Angels" is fast becoming the city of southern-style deviltry, with the latest indication last week involving a plainclothes police attack on Mrs. Edith Nelson Galloway, outstanding local choir member.

Mrs. Galloway reported in the presence of her legal counsel, Atty. Walter L. Gordon Jr., that she was beaten, dragged and exposed for hours before being booked for "drunk auto," after officers approached her car and questioned her and Charles Perkins, a cousin, for no apparent reason.

The prominent young choir member of the People's Independent Church of Christ said she and her relative were sitting quietly in her car while another cousin was inquiring about a room at Turner and Alameda sts. when the two officers came and started firing questions without showing credentials, niggers," Mrs. Galloway revealed, newsmen that "this case ju When the officers ordered Perk- She said the actual arrest was made ins out of the car, Mrs. Galloway near 8:30 p.m., but her booking slip said she also got out and asked shows she was not booked until "All Out"

the plainclothesmen to show their five minutes after midnight. police credentials.

Indignant churchmen he called upon the Rev. Clayton Russell, pastor of the new Independent Church of Christ, to demand a **Strikes Woman**

Obviously angered by Mrs. Galloway's demands, as the officers showed her his badge he also struck her and knocked her down, stat- order that this baseless cr ing "You're one of those fresh go unpunished. Rev. Russell told newsmen that "this case just about authorities in ess crime not ment of citi-

into the conduct of the officers in making the arrest.

Three Negroes among alleged police victims

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif. Sat. 11-16-46

Three victims of alleged police brutality will be among cases cited by the Civil Rights congress when it meets with the police commission on Tuesday, Nov. 26 to protest against the "Police attitude toward minority groups", it was announced today.

Among those whom, it is charged, have suffered beatings and abuse from police officers are:

Tyre Williams, 1170½ E. 46th st., allegedly beaten by a policeman at 5th and Broadway the evening of Nov. 2;

Oscar Morel, 1057 E. 45th st. a red cap at the Union station said to have been struck in a police car near the railroad terminal Oct. 26;

Mrs. Edith Galloway, 434 E. 48th st., reportedly taken from her car at Alameda and Turner sts., and struck by a plainsclothesman, Oct. 24.

Williams, it is reported, was crossing the street with his wife and two children while on a Saturday evening shopping trip, when the officer ordered him to pick up a sign which had been knocked down in the street. Williams said he would pick up the sign, although he had not knocked it down, according to his story.

The officer then took him to a call box, secured his hands behind his back with handcuffs, and struck him, according to reports. Williams fell to the sidewalk, and the officer desisted only upon the interference of 17 irate white witnesses, according to officials of the People's Independent Church of Christ, who have investigated the case.

Williams, it is alleged, was then taken to Lincoln Heights jail and kept over-night. He claims that the following morning, still groggy from the beating, he was brought to plead on a drunk charge and some person unknown to him stepped forward and said: "Guilty".

Attorneys are now trying to change the plea, for which Williams was reportedly given a 1 year suspended sentence and 2 months probation.

Morel is said to have crossed Aliso st. from work to join a crowd of onlookers gathered around a streetcar on which a man had died. Police who tried to disperse the crowd put Morel in a squad car and beat him, it is charged.

Mrs. Galloway, in the third case cited by the Civil Rights Congress, was reportedly sitting in her car with a cousin, waiting for another relative who was trying to secure a hotel room when a plainclothesman approached and ordered her out.

When asked to identify himself as a police officer, according to Mrs. Galloway's story, the policeman showed his badge with one hand and struck her with the other. She was beaten and abused at Central Station and then taken to Lincoln Heights on a drunk auto charge, it is alleged.

"We feel the Williams case is typical of an attitude in the police department which must be corrected by the people now," declared Mrs. Ruth Slade, of the Civil Rights Congress.

"The kind of language used by members of the police department on the streets is setting a bad example to the public," Mrs. Slade said, deploring discrimination by police against minority groups.

Another case of brutality reported here

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif. Sat. 12-14-46

The Civil Rights Congress, which is preparing affidavits charging police brutality, today reported another case involving a Negro.

Hosea Tyalor, of 14730 Calvert st., Van Nuys, charged that on Nov. 15 one police officer held his left wrist while another twisted his arm until it was broken.

Taylor, who said he had been drinking but denied that he was intoxicated, said the incident took place on Hollywood blvd. when two officers in a radio car stopped at the corner where he was waiting for a street car.

Taylor said he was transferred from Lincoln Heights jail to Georgia street receiving hospital for treatment for a head wound suffered when he was struck by a billy or black jack. The next day his arm was placed in a cast after x-rays were taken. He was in the hospital two days, he said, and then was returned to jail.

At Lincoln Heights police court, Taylor denied a prepared statement, but was given a 30-day suspended sentence on a drunk charge.

The Civil Rights Congress said the police commission has demanded formal affidavits covering alleged cases of police brutality before it would consider them.

"Apparently the board of police commissioners is being as technical as they possibly can, but the Civil Rights Congress will comply with the request," Mrs. Ruth Slade said. "We already have a number of statements, but are preparing formal affidavits now."

Some of the cases to be cited are those of Mrs. Edith Galloway, choir singer, who charges she was taken from her parked auto and beaten and abused by a plainclothesman; Oscar Moret, Union Station red cap, who says he was beaten by police in a radio car; and Tyree Williams, reportedly beaten by a policeman at 5th and Broadway when he was ordered to pick up a "no left turn" sign.

Los Angeles Jury Clears Vet's Wife Of Drunk Charge

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 12-14-46

LOS ANGELES—After hearing arguments of opposing counsel in the case of Mrs. Edith Galloway, accused of public drunkenness, a municipal court jury last week returned a finding of not guilty against the Independent Church of Christ choir member.

Mrs. Galloway, the wife of a veteran was arrested a week earlier on a drunkenness charge, while she was seated in her car, talking to a visiting relative. The officers charged that Mrs. Galloway became violent when they sought to arrest her. On that basis they sought to excuse the terrible beating they gave her.

Atty. Walter L. Gordon Jr., defense counsel proved to the jury that the officers gave false testimony about the circumstances surrounding the questioning and the resulting arrest. He showed that the police were atempting to make a vagrancy arrest, and pinned the drunkenness charge on Mrs. Galloway when they realized their mistake.

The defendant testified that one of the officers beat her and dragged her around in front of other officers in jail. It is expected that criminal assault charges will be filed against the policemen by Mrs. Galloway's lawyer.

16 d 1946 D. C.

Mother Sues Cop For $5,000 for "Arrest, Assault" on Her

Washington Tribune, D.C.

Complaining that Pvt. N. L. Richardson and other members of the Third Police Precinct had telephoned her at various times saying "You're Negroes passing for white," and that the former illegally arrested and harmed her subsequently, Mrs. Rose A. Slaughter, 814 21st St., N. W., last week filed suit for $5,000 damages against the policeman.

Primarily concerned about her arrest, Mrs. Slaughter declares that on April 30, last, Private Richardson came to her home in response to a call that a woman there had fallen and broken her arm. The complaint states that the officer was told that a taxicab was waiting for the injured woman.

Assault Charged

Mrs. Slaughter saysf urther that Richardson shoved her from the front door into his police car, and in so doing used profane language, injured her left arm, and right ear. Another officer was with Richardson, it is stated, but he refused to give his name, and Mrs. Slaughter has not been able to get the names of those who allegedly have tormented her family.

The complaint asserts that Mrs. Slaughter was taken to the Third Precinct and the following exchange of conversation took place there:

Richardson—"Oh, look who we've got here, old Negro John Slaughter's mother." Officer in in station (yelling)—"Hurrah!"

Son's Suit Withdrawn

Mrs. Slaughter further declares that some time ago officers of the precinct arrested her son, and that as a result he filed suit against them. They molested her and son so "badly that he was forced to withdraw his action against the officers for that reason."

Last week when a request was made in the file room of the District Court for a copy of the son's suit, the clerk stated the material is in the office of the District attorney. The mother asks $5,000 for being "arested, jerked, and assaulted."

Subsequent investigation revealed that John F. Slaughter, 814 21st St., N. W. filed suit against four officers of the Third Precinct in June, 1945, informa pauperies, that is, without prepayment of costs. Defendants named were: R. G. Mumfert, J. A. Baroffio, P. H. Clarke, and M. C. Barco. 5-14-46

Later, Mr. Slaughter was denied permission to amend his original complaint. On August 23, 1945, Mr. Slaughter put his signature on a court order dismissing the action. Tues.

Cop Arrested for Cutting Car Rider Who Didn't Move

Tribune, Washington, D.C. 6-11-46 Tuesday

James Alfred Burcham, 44, white, of the 1300 bock of Otis Street, N.E., a Capitol policeman, was suspended on Saturday and held under $500 bond in Municipal Court by Judge Walter J. Casey on charges he cut two colored men in an attempt to force them to ride in the rear of a streetcar, Friday. Tue. 6-11-46

Burcham pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. He was arrested at Eleventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., on a description given them by Bertram M. Campbell, operator of the streetcar on which the cutting allegedly took place. The officer was in civilian clothes, awaiting another streetcar, when arrested.

Had Battle Marks

Police say he had cuts on his own face, believed inflicted when the first passenger retaliated upon being attacked. Police say also that the man figuring in the first case left the streetcar before Burcham, apparently afraid to report the matter.

Pvt. Ralph G. McGuffin of the First Precinct, said Burcham, a native of Illinois, had been drinking and denied knowledge of what had happened. He has been a part-time member of the Capitol force for approximately six years.

Red-Whipping in Put Local Man in Casualty Hospital

The Tribune, Washington, D.C. 7-30-46 Tuesday

Police brutality cases are still mounting in the District as was revealed this week by the National Negro Congress which has taken up the case of Wilbert Harris allegedly being beaten by policemen at the No. 2 Precinct, Sixth and New York Avenue. N.W., July 26. His injuries are reputed to be serious.

An investigation by the National Negro Congress disclosed that Mr. Tucker was taken to the police station after he had been arrested on a traffic violation. Mr. Tucker took Mr. Tucker into custody. Tucker's automobile had slightly collided with another motor vehicle. The collision caused no damage to either vehicles.

Forced Statement

As a matter of fact, the owner of the other motor vehicle reported to the police department from the fact that Mr. Tucker has not indulge in alcoholic beverages. When Mr. Tucker refused to make any complaints nevertheless in the presence of half a dozen or press charges at the time of the police force remained in custody, members of the police station against the unwarranted charge of drunkeness, he was brutally attacked by several members of the police force, including the desk sergent who jumped from behind his desk to aid in the beating.

In order to cover the concentration-camp like activities, the police department secured from him under threat of another beating a statement absolving the police department from responsibility for the serious injuries which Mr. Tucker suffered. dwg 7-30-46

The Capital of our nation cannot stand silently by and see the insidious growth of Fascism in this city. The police are not a law unto themselves. That they who are appointed to enforce the law are also subject to the law must be made clear to them by every individual and organization which has even a scintillation of love for dem'cracy, Miss Harris points out.

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Tribune, Washington, D.C. Saturday 6-15-46

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Red-Whipped Man in Put Local Man Hospital Casualty

Washington, D.C. Tues. 7-30-46

The Tribune

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Broke Man's Ankle,

The Tribune Washington, D. C.

Cop Asked $10,000

Sat. 11-30-46

Suspended from the Metropolitan police force for allegedly having made a vicious, unprovoked attack on a man who stood talking to his wife, breaking his ankle, and then reported offering his reput-ed victim $100 to drop the case, Pvt. William Chappel, white, of 2909 26th St., N.E., is also facing a $10,000 damage suit being prepared by Belford V. Lawson, Jr., attorney.

Chappel was suspended by Captain Pierce of the First Precinct after reports of the bribery attempt made by Robert Lodge, of 117 Madison Ct., N.W. In his complaint to officials, Mr. Lodge stated that he was standing at the corner of Madison Court talking to his wife and a male friend, William Barnes, on Hallowe'en night when Chappell allegedly walked up and told them to go home.

Mr. Lodge states that he started to walk the short distance to his home, but Chappel came up beside him and struck him savagely over the right eye. The brutality victim was knocked cold.

Offered $100 Bribe, Report

Upon regaining consciousness, Mr. Lodge states that he found he could not walk, that his ankle had been broken, supposedly upon being trampled on. Chappell and another officer wearing badge 250 placed Mr. Lodge on his doorsteps and left him. His wife succeeded in getting him into the house and reported to the precinct on the following day.

On November 5, Mr. Lodge swore in an affidavit that a man identified as Jake Hammon, of the 500 block of Second St., N.W., had come to him and offered him $100 to drop the case.

Another policeman is also said to have suggested that the brutality victim drop the matter. Superintendent of Police Harvey Callahan directed Captain Pierce to make a full investigation of the case, and Chappell's suspension followed.

Jury Indicts Defender Fla. Detective For Brutality

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 12-21-46

(Defender Staff Correspondent)

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Police brutality — which almost any Negro fears upon being arrested in a southern town — was ordered investigated last Monday when the Pinellas County grand jury indicted a former Clearwater city detective on two counts of assaulting prisoners in his custody.

The grand jury recommended to the City Commission here that it make "a thorough investigation of brutality" by its police department.

Southern police who have specialized in blackjacking and clubbing hapless Negroes taken into custody because federal and state authorities have not attempted to stop such abuses, are now doing whites the same way in many instances.

Robert Fulle, who was recently dismissed by the City Commission along with Police Chief Robert Swift and Police Captain Roy Garrison, was indicted by the grand jury on charges of aggravated assault and simple assault. The indictment did not give details of the alleged attacks.

The grand jury report read:

"We have heard a lot of convincing testimony that shows some members of the police force of the city of Clearwater have on different occasions and in different ways abused prisoners that are in their custody.

"We have returned two indictments against one of these men and we wish to go on record as severely condemning and criticizing any police officer that will in any way mistreat a prisoner that he has in his charge.

"We request and recommend to the City Commission of the city of Clearwater and the Civil Service Board that they make as thorough an investigation into this condition as they can and use their best efforts toward eliminating the same and to see that such activities on the part of the police officers be immediately stopped."

The case of Negro War Veteran Isaac Woodard, who was permanently blinded last February when a club was brutally thrust in both of his eyes by Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull of Batesburg, S. C., is an example of torture methods imposed upon Negroes by ruthless southern law enforcement officers. Despite the fact that federal statutes may be violated in any such action upon the part of police officers, it is difficult to get the Department of Justice to intervene in the protection of civil liberties in police brutality cases.

Emergency Meet Hits Storm Trooper Attacks on Negroes and Strikers

Miami white Florida

WASHINGTON. — "Hitting the "growing pattern by state and local police, under the cloak of law, to deprive citizens of their fundamental constitutional rights" representatives of more than 60 national organizations met in emergency conference here last week to plan a national campaign to end lynch terror in Columbia, Tennessee. Sat. 4-6-46

Meeting under joint auspices of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (CIO), the conference heard reports of Storm Trooper attacks from two of the major defendants in mass arrests in Columbia, sent a delegation to the Attorney General's office to demand federal action and planned community activities throughout the nation in support of the campaign.

Conduct of the police in raiding the Negro community in Columbia "follows the patterns of such incidents as the slugging of strikers by police at Philadelphia, reading of the riot act to peaceful pickets at Bloomfield, N. J., the killing of the Ferguson brothers at Freeport, L. I., and a whole series of violent killings and especially Negro veterans, throughout the South," the conference resolution states.

Among the organizations sending delegates were the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the National Council of Negro Women, the Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Science and Professions, the National Lawyers Guild, the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, the Methodist Federation for Social Service, and a large number of CIO international and local unions, including the Amalgamated Clothing Workers the United Automobile Workers and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. Sat. 4.6.46

The story of the police raid on the Columbia Negro community and mass arrests of Negro citizens,, which was followed by killing of two prisoners in the sheriff's office and a wholesale frame-up of others was recited to delegates by Rev. Calvin Lockridge, minister of the Negro Baptist church in Coumbia, and Solomon Blair, one of the Negro business men whose establishments were wrecked by local police. Both are out on bail after being held incommunicado in jail for days after the raid. Other speakers included Samuel Neuburger, NCFL attorney just returned from Columbia, and Howard Mooney of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers. Sat. 4.6.46

Public demand for action to stop the increased use of police against the Negro people and labor was relayed by a delegation of 60 persons to Assistant Attorney General Theron L. Caudle, who promised that the Department of Justice would prosecute any local law enforcement officer who violated the federal Civil Rights law.

Actions of the conference, in addition to the delegation to the Attorney General were:

1. Urging Gov. Jim McCord of Tennessee to take prompt disciplinary action and institute legal prosecution against those responsible for the raid and to assure fair trial of all victims of the raid:
2. Calling upon all organizations to institute a movement of mass meetings, resolutions, conferences and delegations and
3. Naming of a joint committee to coordinate the national campaign. Sat 4.6.46

Organizations and individuals taikng action in the case are urged to send reports and contributions to Mrs. Andy Seller, Washington Secretary of NFCL, at Rm. 810, 1020 Vermont Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

CAMDEN COMMUNISTS FIGHT ANTI-NEGRO COP TERROR

Daily Worker

By George Fishman

CAMDEN, N. J., June 19.— A series of cases of police brutality against the Negro people was recently brought by Negro citizens to the attention of the Communist Party. Wkrs. 6-20-46

The Party immediately started action in its own name under the leadership of the County Chairman, Lou Malinow.

The police assaults indicated a deliberate, callous, fascist-like attitude toward the Negro people. "Tough guy" cops for no reason slapped one young man, brutally beat up another, shot another in the leg. One of the trigger-happy cops, Russel Young, is well-known for his "toughness." New York.

The County, together with the Douglass Branch, called a protest meeting on short notice. Officially participating was the local chapter of the National Negro Congress. Present were members of NAACP, Elks, Rubber Workers Local, Campbell's Soup Local 80, AYD and others.

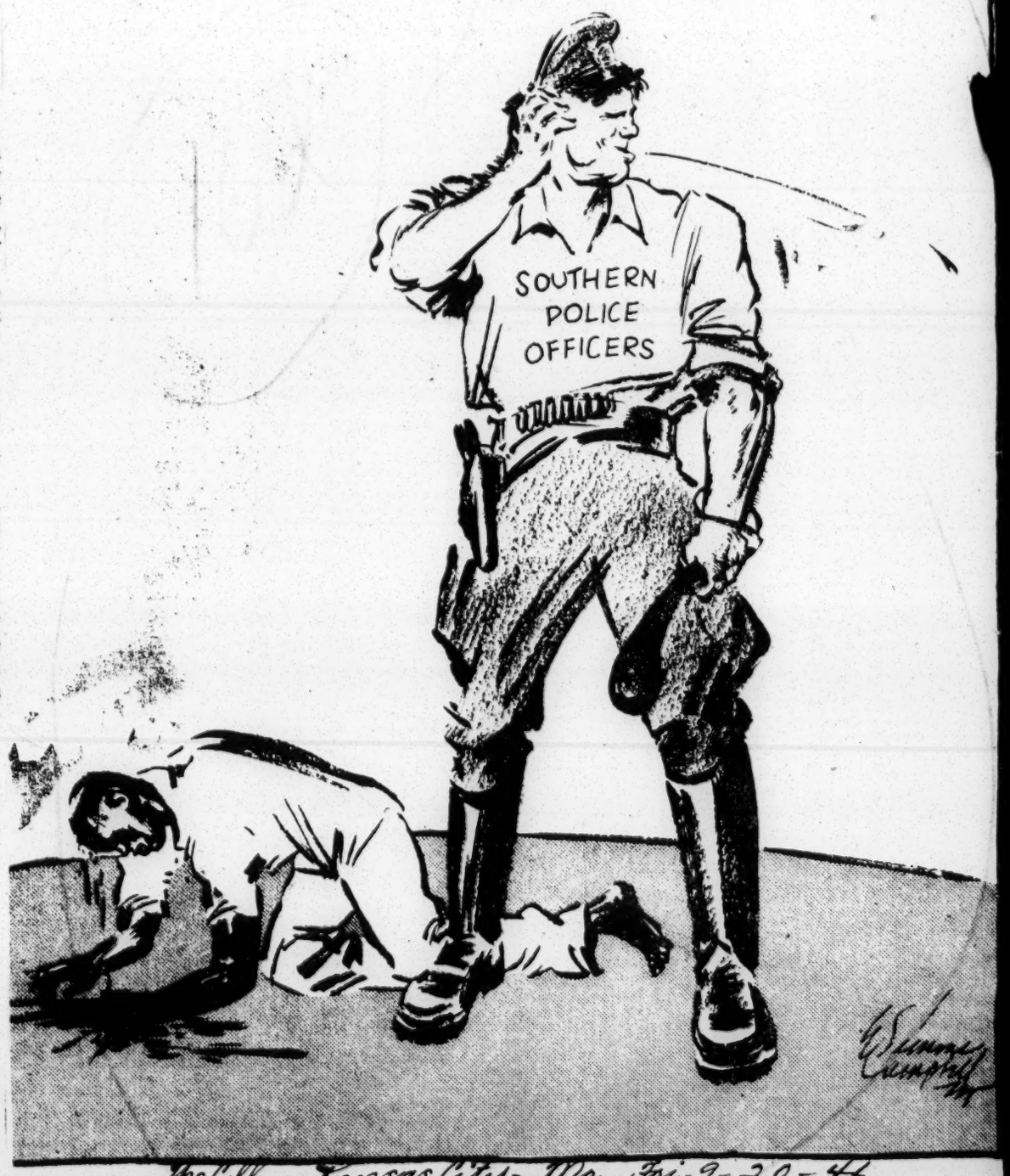
The meeting was well attended. It attracted some Party members who hadn't been involved in activity for some time. It also attracted new people of the community. We must have been striking home, for a city detective was present. Also, a couple of days after the meeting, as if in retaliation and fright, the **Camden Courier** opened up with a red-baiting move against the signers of the Party's election petition.

It was a fighting meeting. A Citizens Committee, consisting of unions, Negro, and other community organizations, was set up. John Norman, County Committee member, was elected one of the leaders of the citizens committee. This committee has commanded the attention of the city administration. It is fighting for the removal and prosecution of Russel Young and for equal rights for the Negro people.

Wkrs. 6-20-46

Party spokesmen scored the local political machine, called for a large vote for Communist candidates, explained the Party's program, and called on the non-Communists (except the detective) to join the Party. Three people did. They were Negro rubber workers. One of them was Mr. Grady, the father of the wounded boy. He believes that **"God and the Communist Party are fighting on my side."** New York.

Although the number of recruits wasn't astronomical, the meeting provided a fighting Communist education to all. Above all the meeting was not the end, but a milestone in the fight for Negro rights, unity, and Party Building.



The Call Kansas City, Mo. Fri. 9-20-46

"BY GOLLY --- WHO COULD a DONE IT?"

Matter of Geography

Charleston, S.C. The News and Courier
Mon. 10-1-46

Comes to The News and Courier a clipping from a newspaper dated Ewardsville, state of Illinois, telling that a former deputy sheriff pleaded guilty to beating a negro prisoner while transporting him to jail. The officer got off with a fine of $100 and 60 days in jail. Two other deputies who were with the man pleaded not guilty to beating the negro and were awaiting trial. This incident is not important, but it is interesting that the negro societies, the Harlemites and their white associates, in New York have not demanded that the three deputies in Illinois be tried in federal court. On second thought, we say that it is not interesting or surprising, Illinois being a Northern state. Florida, Georgia and South Carolina are Southern, and it is not so grave an offense for a Northern deputy sheriff to beat a negro as for a Southern policeman to strike a negro with a club. It is a matter of geography.

16d 1946

Georgia

9 Draftees Held After Beating By Ga. Police

COLUMBUS, Ga. — (ANP) — Forty Negro draftees enroute from Savannah to Fort Benning were seriously beaten by Columbus police upon arrival at the Central of Georgia late afternoon train at Union station last week.

According to the reports, the police had been summoned to the station by railroad officials. The officers immediately entered the coach from both ends and, without any explanation, began beating the draftees. Nine of them were placed in jail after a number had suffered injuries inflicted by the officers.

The Columbus Baptist Ministers' Conference appointed a committee to take up the matter and interview the draftees. Authorities at the post stated that the draftees had not been sworn in as soldiers and therefore were not under their management.

NEGRO WOUNDED BY POLICEMAN

Odell Vaughn, Negro, of 1705 Cartledge Alley, was shot and seriously wounded by Traffic Officer T. S. Alley Tuesday night when he attempted to enter the policeman's home at 1712 St. Luke Street.

According to police records, Vaughn had entered one residence and attempted to enter another before threatening the police officer on the porch of his home. The officer fired six shots, one entering the Negro's abdomen.

Police took Vaughn to University Hospital for treatment. He was charged with burglary and two attempts at burglary.

Locust Grove Youth Shot By Policeman

Memphis World, Tennessee

Fri 5-10-46

LOCUST GROVE, Ga.— (SNS) Kirby Sims, 20, was shot by a policeman, Sunday night and was rushed to Grady Hospital, Atlanta, Ga. Hospital officials described his condition as "fair," Monday afternoon.

According to eye-witnesses, Kirby and his brother John Richard Sims, 26, accompanied their aunt to the railway station, around 8 o'clock, and were standing near the station waiting for the train when the shooting took place.

It is reported that several colored people were waiting for the train, standing under the only light at the little railway station, talking when the officers arrived. In a very rude manner the officer told them to get to the back and clear the place where they were standing. Without comment, the colored people started toward the back.

The victim, who is said to be a rather jovial youngster readily moved back, and in doing so, had a smile on his face. seeing the smile, officer Harold Craig is reported to have yelled, "What are you grinning for N.....?

Before Kirby could answer, the officer is reported to have kicked him, and a scuffle followed, during which time, the officer shot the victim in the stomach.

Meanwhile, when John heard the shot and saw his wounded brother fall across the track, he started to help him up, but Officer Grover Patrick put a gun on him and told him not to move.

Fri 5-10-46

Later, the officer permitted John to put Kirby in the family car, and when he was about to rush him to McDonough, changed their minds and ordered him out of the car and placed him under arrest. It is reported a white youngster was kind enough to rush Kirby to McDonough, and an ambulance carried him to Atlanta.

BEATEN IN JAIL

When the officers got John to jail they shoved him and started beating him. Learning about the shooting of Kirby and the arrest of John ames Sims father of the youngsters got in his car to go and see if he could get John out of

According to reports as Mr. Sims approached the staion, he was met by Mayor Emmett Daniel armed with a shotgun and Officer Patrick, who had his pistol drawn Mr Sims explanied that he didn't come to cause further trouble but merely wanted to see if he could get his son out of jail.

The officers not only refused to let him see John but threatened to blow his head off, and drove all of the colored people from the station. Monday, however he was able to get John out under $500 bond and he is slated to go on trial in July on a charge of assault with intent to murder.

Mr. Sims has a farm three and one half miles from Locust Grove. John was honorably discharged from the United States Army about four months ago, after serving three years and six months in the "ETO." Since being released from the Services, he has been farming.

Transfer of Soldiers at Benning Urged After Probe of Beatings by Ga. Cops

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Following an investigation of police brutality against 42 selectees at Columbus, Ga., it has been suggested in light of the Gillem Board report that the War Department either close Fort Benning entirely or remove all colored personnel from the camp.

The investigation not only revealed a hostile attitude of the civilian police toward the Army but also disclosed that there were no grounds for using force against the men who were en route from Savannah, Ga., to the Fort Benning reception center for induction.

4-27-46

In its report, the Gillem Board recommended that training advantages should be evaluated against the unfavorable community attitude with its resultant effect on both training and morale.

Army Investigation Rebuffed

When the Army officer conducting the investigation sought information from Chief of Police J. G. Newberry of Columbus, Newberry told him that the incident was a civilian matter and that he would not be questioned nor allow his men to be questioned.

He also said he was "sick and tired" of military authorities at Fort Benning sending investigators to question his police every time there was an incident involving a soldier.

Ministers Seek Probe

The investigation was made by Lt. Col. J. W. Sproesser of the inspector general's headquarters at Fort Benning following a reques. to the commanding general by three ministers of Columbus.

Traveling in a separate car on the Central of Georgia Railroad, the investigator found, the men indulged in considerable loud and boisterous talking, laughing and the usual turmoil incident to the movement of selectees to an Army post.

4-27-46

No Evidence of Drinking

However, he said, there was no indication that any of the selectees had been drinking, although A. C. Avera, the conductor who took charge of the train at Macon, said the men were using profane and obscene language.

Declaring that he did not insist upon their being quiet because of his age, he said that at Reynolds, Ga., he telegraphed the station agent at Columbus to have the military police meet the train and take charge of the selectees.

However, because the men were still in a civilian status, the Fort Benning military officials requested the civilian police of Columbus to handle the situation.

9 Badly Injured

According to the selectees, the Columbus police entered the car at both ends, beating them with clubs and blackjacks. Some were badly spattered with blood. Nine, badly injured, were detained at the police station and the others turned over to military authorities.

3 at.

Selective Service headquarters, agreeing that the men were still in a civilian status, took the position that from the moment the men reported at draft headquarters, some responsibility for the men rested both with the Selective Service system and the Army.

Army Blamed

In the circumstances, it was stated, the Army could have sent military police to take charge of the selectees and the clubbing and blackjacking of them by the civilian police would have been avoided.

4-27-46

There are about 20,000 soldiers stationed at Fort Benning, and about 50 per cent of them are colored.

Ga. Cop Shoots Vet Who Protests Bias

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

COLUMBUS, Ga. — The city board of public safety is investigating circumstances surrounding the shooting of a colored overseas veteran by a policeman, here, last Wednesday.

Sat.

The veteran, E. E. Brown of Fernandina, Fla., was shot in the stomach and critically wounded by the cop in an altercation which started near the bus station.

Brown, according to a statement by Police Chief John G. Newberry, resented being ordered to the jim crow waiting room by Patrolman George E. Stillwell.

6-29-46

Offered No Violence

He had declared, "We've been fighting overseas for you - - - -," when the cop pulled out his revolver and shot Brown in the stomach.

He was taken to City Hospital, where he is still in a critical condition. He was in civilian clothes when he was shot, but has reenlisted in the Army.

Police Blackjack Wrong Man In Bed

Daily World

Another case of police brutality was chalked up by members of the Atlanta Police Department, early Wednesday morning. Then, after discovering that they had beaten the wrong man, the officers booked him on a charge of being drunk and he was fined $12 in Recorder's Court.

Thurs. 6-13-46

The victim was Eddie J. Hendricks, 43, of 535 Hunter, St., N. W., who was in bed asleep, when an officer woke him up by striking him with a black-jack.

NO KNOWLEDGE OF CRIME

It was around 3 o'clock in the morning, when the special squad of officers, traveling in two cars arrived at the above address where Mr .Hendricks boards. These officers asked him about an alleged criminal attack on a white woman, and although he explained that he knew nothing about the crime, they started beating him.

They had a cap, supposedly left by the assailant and attempted to put it on Mr. Hendricks head, but it was much too small. One of the officers said that he did not fit the description, but another remarked, "this is the N----r."

"THE WRONG MAN"

Atlanta

The officers forced Mr. Hendricks to get into one of the automobiles, and it was then that they started beating and kicking him and told him to confess. They drove to the white woman's home and to the home of her sweetheart, only to be told that "this is not the man."

Georgia

So, the officers carried him to the Station House and charged him with being drunk, and a few hours later he was fined $12, along with a group of men held on the same charge.

It developed that the officers, whose identities at this time are unknown, were looking for Jim Hixon, who is employed at a transfer company.

They found him, but according to reliable sources, discovered that the cap they had, was the property of a white boy, also employed at the transfer company. So, no charges were made against Mr Hixon.

WHITE BOY'S CAP

In addition to losing a day off his job and paying a fine of $12, Hendricks, who is a cook at the Piedmont Hotel boards with Mr. Hixon aunt. That is why, they went to the Hunter Street address.

Continuing their investigation, the officers went to the transfer company looking for Jim Hixon.

ATLANTA INSURANCE MAN BEATEN BY POLICEMEN

ATLANTA (ANP) — Claiming that he was connected with a bootleg racket ring at an entertainment here, Atlanta police recently beat John Moore, insurance man, who denied any connection with the fraud.

Baltimore, Md. 6-29-46

Police Blackjack 'Wrong' Man in Bed; He Draws Fine Anyway

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 6-29-46

ATLANTA—(ANP)—The fact that they had made a mistake by beating 43-year-old Eddie F. Hendricks with a blackjack while he was in his own bed, did not deter police here from booking him on a charge of "drunk on the streets."

The officers were searching for a suspect in an attack case and minus search warrants, entered Hendricks's home, finding him asleep. They began beating him, saying, "this is the man." The assault victim failed to identify Hendricks who, with his head bloody, had been carried to her house.

Chagrinned by their error, the officers carried the innocent victim to police headquarters, and the next day he drew a $12 fine for being asleep in his own bed. The Atlanta branch, NAACP, has protested the magistrate's action.

Ga. Cops Protest U.S. 'Meddling'

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Efforts to Protect Minority Censured

Sat. 11-23-46

ATLANTA — (ANP) — A protest against the intervention of Federal law enforcement agencies in behalf of colored citizens was made recently by the Georgia Peace Officers' Association, which accused U.S. agencies of "discriminatory practices against Southern officers."

The group adopted a resolution which termed the intervention of U.S. Attorney General Tom C. Clarke's office in behalf of colored citizens as "needless meddling in local law enforcement, which tends to create discord and to encroach on and nullify the functions of our State grand juries."

Without citing any specific cases, the resolution's preamble said that "on more than one occasion," the attorney general's office had intervened in matters considered local.

Records of Southern law enforcement agencies and officers in punishing lynchers alone is sufficient to warrant an appeal to United States law enforment agencies, colored leaders here emphasized.

Pittsburgher Beaten By Hawaii Police

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NAACP Launches Probe of Police Brutality At Pearl Harbor; Ozett Lee of Pittsburgh Charge Police Slugged Him

Sat. 4-13-46

HONOLULU, Hawaii—(Delayed)—The sordid details of Pearl Harbor police brutality were revealed this week as the Honolulu Branch of the NAACP launched an investigation of charges filed by Ozett Lee of Pittsburgh, against three civil service officers, according to Fleming R. Waller, president of the NAACP here.

Lee, whose family in Pittsburgh could not be traced, suffered permanent loss of forty-four per cent of his hearing and serious internal injuries as the result of the beating. The civil service policemen, Sgt. Edward O'Toole and Patrolmen Vernon Price and James Robinson, were suspended and arrested on charges of assault and battery.

Lee, who is a civilian welder at Shop 26, told authorities that he was arrested for being present at a card game at a friend's room on March 10. He said he was not playing but came to the room for a friend to pay a dollar debt to a fellow worker. While he was there, Lee said police entered and arrested him for being present during a card game.

STRUCK IN FACE

He was taken to the Civilian Housing Area No. 3 Police Station and questioned. Lee charged that the three officers surrounded him and after an exchange of words one of the officers struck him in the face.

"I bounced off the wall and raised my hands to ward off another blow," Lee's complete statement continued. "Out of the corner of my eye I saw one of the cops grab for what I believe was a blackjack. I dropped my hands and cursed them as they tore into me slugging from all angles.

"I felt blood trickling from my lips. My stomach and sides felt like they were caving in and I was repeatedly hit below the belt. A hard blow to the chin sent me sprawling to the floor. I felt a shoe smash into my side as another bounced off my temple and left ear. I was beginning to lose consciousness as another kick landed in my side.

Sat. 4-13-46

"I did not resist arrest, I did not attempt to fight back, nor did I, for any reason known to me, make it necessary for the police to 'soften me up'."

Lee was booked on a charge of being present at the card game and fined $10. He was found guilty and the bail was transferred to pay the fine.

A Honolulu doctor's certificate proved that Lee's injuries were recent and that his hearing was impaired as the result.

The NAACP retained the services of George Y. Kobayashi to handle the case against the three policemen.

PROMISES JUSTICE

Pearl Harbor Chief of Police Merritt A. Mesch stated: "I will never condone the mistreatment of prisoners in custody of the civil service police and any such cases brought to my attention will be thoroughly investigated and justice meted out."

Waller said: "Our organization wants the truth and we are ready to go to any extreme to attain that goal. We believe every word of Mr. Lee as to the 'Gestapo treatment' from the offense and we want justice."

The Courier's efforts to locate Lee's family here have been unsuccessful.

Cops Who Beat GI in Honolulu Fined

Baltimore, Md.
Afro-American

By FLEMING R. WALLER

HONOLULU—Convicted of brutally beating Ozett Lee, a worker at Pearl Harbor, on the night of March 10, two white police officers were fined $100 each and court costs last week by Judge Harry Steiner of the local district court.

4-27-46

The two were Sgt. Edward O'Toole and James Roberson, who are expected to be discharged from the force. A third policeman, Vernon Price, also accused by Lee of beating him, was found not guilty.

Sat. 4-27-46

The conflicting testimony of Landie Broadnax, colored patrolman, one of Lee's witnesses, together with the inability of his other witnesses to offer proof that Price participated in the beating, reportedly rendered Lee's accusation against the third man ineffective.

Ear Drum Ruptured

Two points were held responsible for the favorable verdict. One was the testimony of Dr. Ogden D. Pinkerton that Lee's left ear drum was ruptured as a result of physical assault.

The second was that the room in which Lee was beaten at the police station is soundproof.

Witnesses Upheld

Commenting on the second point, Judge Steiner declared that the fact that the room was soundproof only bolstered the testimony of witnesses who admitted that they heard no screams but had seen him come out of the room in a badly beaten condition.

Although the fine is held light in comparison to the bodily and mental injury sustained, observers hold the verdict a moral victory for the Honolulu branch of the NAACP, which sponsored the case and presented it to the press.

Manhandled By Police, Mother-To-Be Loses Child

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill

Lost over the weekend was one child and one civil right.

Little Mrs. Lois Motten, an 18-year old expectant mother, lost both in Evanston's Varsity theatre.

Lois' "lost week end" began at 8:30 p. m. Sunday when a policeman made a "mistake" and shook her roughly in her balcony seat and snapped, "I told you to be quiet."

When she insisted that there was some mistake, witnesses report she was dragged from her seat, led to steps, dragged down with an officer's knee in the middle of her back.

The weekend wore on with Mrs. Motton, wife of a Fort Sheridan soldier, being taken to Bridewell jail, where she scrubbed cells on her knees.

Sat 3. 30. 46

It neared a close when Judge Porter fined her $100 on charges of "disorderly conduct."

Treatment Dooms Child

End of Lois "weekend" came when Dr. A. Rudolph Penn informed her that her mistreatment had been serious enough to cause loss of her child.

Sordid case of Lois' weekend came to light here as the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee threw its full weight in the fight against Evanston's latest case of police brutality.

In an effort to recover Mrs. Motten's lost civil rights Atty. Alvin G. Brooks, a former Evanston policeman, secured Mrs. Motten's release on a petition for a new trial.

With six witnesses ready to testify to the young mother's beating, the case is expected to explode against what Attorney Brooks described as a "flagrant case of official lawlessness that must be exposed to the public view.

"The Varsity Theatre usher who struck Mrs. Motten in the stomach and the police officers who kicked her down the steps must be made to feel the full wrath of the public," she said.

Brooks and Graten Little, Minorities Secretary of the CCLC are demanding the dismissal of the officers responsible for the injuries that Mrs. Motten received.

Race Hate Moves North; Deputies Beat Prisoner

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 8-31-46

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. — Lynch fever headed North this week as three deputies administered four blackjack beatings to their defenseless Negro captive and asked him to try to escape "so we can kill you."

The 26 year old prisoner is Lucian J. Hopkins, accused of attacking an aged Alton woman. The bludgeoning occurred while Deputies Delmar Monken of Wood River, Vernon Crider of Granite City and Marion Booth of Alton were bringing Hopkins here from the Alton city jail. All three deputies have been suspended by Sheriff Harry T. Hartman.

In a statement to State's Attorney C. W. Burton, made shortly after he arrived here with severe lacerations about the head, Hopkins charged the trio with stopping four times to beat him. The deputies, stopping at taverns en route, took four hours to make the 12 mile trip, he said.

"They first stopped at a tavern east of Alton and invited patrons to come out and hit me with their blackjacks," said Hopkins. Three men accepted the offer and cudgelled him while he sat handcuffed in the deputies' car, Hopkins charged.

Defender

At another tavern the deputies invited three women to beat him, according to the statement. The women declined. Monken, Crider and Booth repeatedly asked him to try to escape "so we can kill you," Hopkins told Burton. He was left unattended at all times to invite an attempted escape he added.

Other beatings were administered in the Wood River police station in the presence of policemen there, and on back roads between Alton and Edwardsville, said Hopkins, who required immediate medical attention upon his arrival at the county jail.

Chicago, Ill

Illinois Jury Indicts 3 for Hitting Prisoner

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

EDWARDSVILLE, Illinois — (NNPA) —Three former Madison County sheriffs deputies were indicted by a grand jury last Friday on charges of assaulting a colored prisoner they were bringing from Alton, Ill., to the county jail, here, Aug. 22.

The men who were suspended, pleaded not guilty at arraignment. Trial was scheduled for November. They are Delmar Monken of Wood River, Marion Booth of Godfrey, and Vernie Crider of Granite City, Ill.

Sat. 9-28-46

Sheriffs Blackjack Negro in Illinois

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Tues. 8-27-46

Special to the Daily Worker

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill., Aug. 26.—A 26-year-old Negro, Lucian J. Hopkins, was the victim of four blackjack beatings administered by three deputy sheriffs on back roads while being brought here from Alton, Ill.

On arrival at County Jail here, Hopkins required attention for severe lacerations about the head. The three deputy sheriffs who cruelly beat Hopkins are Delmar Monken, of Wood River; Vernon Crider, of Granite City, and Marion Booth, of Alton.

In a statement to State's Attorney C. W. Burton, Hopkins charged the three deputy sheriffs with repeatedly asking him to try to escape "so we can kill you." The trio stopped four times to beat him during the trip from Alton, Ill., to the county jail here, Hopkins declared.

The deputies took four hours to make the 12-mile trip, stopping at taverns en route, Hopkins added.

They first stopped at a tavern east of Alton, where the deputies invited patrons to come out and beat Hopkins with their blackjacks. This offer was accepted by three men, who mercilessly hit the handcuffed Hopkins seated in the deputies' car. At another tavern stop, according to Hopkins, the same invitation was extended to three women, all of whom declined.

Still other beatings were administered by the deputies at the Wood River police station, in the presence of policemen there, and on the back roads between Alton and Edwardsville.

Tues. 8-27-46

Hopkins, who was in the custody of the three deputy sheriffs, is accused of attempted burglarly and striking a 79-year-old Alton woman.

The suspension of the three deputies involved in the beatings was announced today by Sheriff Harry T. Hartman. Latest information is that the three deputies resigned, following their suspension, in an effort to crawl out from under mounting resentment and public protests.

Telegrams denouncing the beatings and demanding arrest and punishment of the three deputies were sent today to Republican Governor Dwight Green by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the Illinois Civil Liberties Committee and the Illinois Communist Party.

"The latest outrage in Madison County, Illinois, where a Negro was cruelly beaten by three deputy sheriffs confirms our belief that unless some drastic action is taken by those in authority, Illinois will witness a spectacle similar to that of Monroe County, Georgia," the wire from Henry Magee, president, Chicago NAACP, to Gov. Green declared.

Ira Latimer, executive director, Illinois Civil Liberties Committee, called on Gov. Green to guarantee the full safety of Hopkins and arrange immediately for the arrest and punishment of the three Klan-like deputies.

The protest to Gov. Green from William L. Patterson, Communist Party state legislative director, declared "Illinois must not become a Mississippi of the north. Every protection must be given to Hopkins. Those guilty of the fascist-like beating given him must not only be arrested but punished."

A mass meeting to protest the vicious attacks on Hopkins has been arranged by Negroes and trade unionists of Madison County, scene of the beatings.

The State's Attorney also declared that **"warrants have been issued for their arrests."**

Telegrams protesting the lynching attack on Hopkins had also been sent by the Illinois Civil Liberties Committee, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People and the Illinois Communist Party to Gov. Dwight H. Green, from whom replies are being awaited.

SHERIFFS CHARGED

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Thurs. 8-29-46

CHICAGO, Aug. 28.—Warrants have been issued for the arrest of the three deputy sheriffs who beat Lucian J. Hopkins, a Negro, with blackjacks and brass knuckles on the back roads between Alton and Edwardsville, Ill.

This was announced by Ira Latimer, executive director, Illinois Civil Liberties Committee, following receipt of a telegram from State's Attorney C. W. Burton at Edwardsville.

"I have signed and filed criminal complaints against the deputy sheriffs who assaulted Lucian Hopkins, charging them with assault with a deadly weapon," Burton declared in his wire to Latimer.

NEGRO BEATEN, 3 LOSE JOBS

New York Times
New York

Deputy Sheriffs in Illinois Are Discharged on Prisoner's Story

Tues 8-27-46

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill., Aug. 26 (AP)—Three deputy sheriffs of Madison County have been discharged as a result of charges by a Negro burglary suspect, Lucian J. Hopkins, 26, that they beat him while he was in their custody, Sheriff Harry T. Hartman said today.

The prisoner, who is charged with beating a 79-year-old woman of Alton, Inn., said that blackjacks were used on him repeatedly by two of the deputies and later by customers of an Alton tavern who were invited by the officers to do so. He also was urged to try to escape so the officers could shoot him and was subjected to a third beating in front of the Wood River, Ill., police station, said Hopkins.

Sheriff Hartman said that those accused admitted that Hopkins' story was substantially correct.

The third deputy was discharged for standing by and permitting the beatings.

LOUISIANA COPS ACCUSED OF USING 'GESTAPO' TACTICS ON CALIFORNIAN

Louisiana Weekly, La.

Say State Police in Minden Beat Him, Took His Car, Sold It

New Orleans

According to the San Francisco Reporter, a few weeks ago Roosevelt Hollingsworth of San Francisco decided it would be a good idea to drive back home to Minden, La., to visit his mother and get married. He gassed up his 1942 Buick and drove down Dixie way. After a preliminary reunion Hollingsworth and his family drove to a local gas station where they were greeted by state policemen.

They asked Hollingsworth where he got the the good looking car. He told them he bought it in California and had just driven it here. They told him to get out of the Buick. He did and they packed him into their car while one of the cops slid behind the wheel of the Buick.

When they arrived at the ... jail they took the registration papers for the car and arrested Hollingsworth and his brother. They told the men that they were going to beat them up, saying: "We don't allow no 'N————rs' around here in '42 Buicks. How did you come by the car?"

Hollingsworth told them he had bought it and was paying $101 a month on it. The cops called him a liar and said: "There are no jobs in California that pay a 'N——r' enough to meet a note of $101. Didn't you steal that car?" The policemen again accused him of lying and tied him to the "swing," a sack filled with sawdust suspended from each end by a chain from the ceiling. His hands were tied to his ankles. They worked him and his brother over with rubber hoses, bare fists and anything else that was handy, trying to get him to admit stealing the car. Hollingsworth refused and after three days they released the men, but they kept the Buick and an additional $77 in cash.

Hollingsworth returned to the coast where he learned that the car had been sold for $1,600 to a school teacher. His mother, back in Louisiana, was notified by the teacher's husband that if Hollingsworth made any effort to recover his car, the husband would personally go to California and kill him. 6-1-46

Hollingsworth, who was given no trial at all and who has no record of previous arrests, contacted the San Francisco NAACP who is prosecuting the case.

Booked On Illegal Entry-Robbery

Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La.

Say Carrier Victim Of Persecution

Sat. 5-18-46

NAACP Enters Case

Also Accused of Assaulting Woman

Raynold Smith, 30 year old letter carrier of 2600 Valence Street, was arrested on April 26 on charges of illegal entry, robbery and battery. Since then he has been held in local police stations and the Parish prison. Recently uncovered letters and testimony, however, points to the fact that he is a victim of persecution and that he is being held on insufficient evidence.

His family has contacted the NAACP and has presented to the organization several letters, written two years ago, which prove that he has been constantly hounded by police. The police, however, insist that he is a "peeping tom" and point to two previous arrests—one on June 14, 1942 for trespassing, the other on November 3, 1942 for being a "dangerous and suspicious person".

The current charge on which he is being held stems from a robbery and striking of a white woman, Mrs. William C. Norris, 23, of 2810 Napoleon Ave. The robbery occurred on last Easter Sunday night. Sat. 5-18-46

Although no statement from Smith has been available, several persons have testified that it would have been impossible for him to have committed the crime since they were in his company from 9:00 p. m., on the night of the robbery, until 2:00 a. m. the following morning. The robbery is supposed to have occurred at 10:00 p. m. Reporters have been barred from interviewing Smith by "orders of the sheriff".

Half an hour after the robbery, several witnesses have stated, a police detail was sent out to surround Smith's home. No arrest was made at that time. Sat. 5-18-46

A police sergeant has testified that he immediately thought of Smith when Mrs. Norris described her assailant. Smith has been hounded by police since he incurred their ill-will while he was operating a cleaning and laundry service at Carondelet and Milan Streets. One night, his relatives say, he was yanked out of bed by police and taken to Touro Infirmary to see if a nurse could identify him as the man who had slashed her. She couldn't identify him and later admitted that the whole story was a hoax.

This police annoyance got so bad that Smith wrote to the President of the United States asking help. In the letter he stated that he had closed up his business in he hope that it would end the persecution. He received a reply from the Attorney General's office referring him to the local Legal Aid Bureau. Smith did not press the matter further. Both the letter, written in 1944, and the reply were exhibited by Smith's family. Sat. 5-18-46

Louisiana police accused of beating Californian

Minneapolis Spokesman

NEW ORLEANS — Roosevelt Hollingsworth, of San Francisco, who recently drove back home to Minden, La., in a '42 Buick to visit his mother and get married, was beaten by state policemen who took away his car and sold it, it was charged last week. Sat.

Hollingsworth said he drove his family to a local gas station, where police got curious about his "good-looking" car. They allegedly arrested him and his brother, declaring. "We don't allow no niggers around here in '42 Buicks. How did you come by the car?" 6-8-46

When he explained he had bought it in California on $101 monthly installments, Hollingsworth said, the police called him a liar and said, "There are no jobs in California that pay a nigger enough to meet a note of $101. Didn't you steal that car?"

When he denied stealing, the police assertedly tied him and his brother to the "swing", a sack of sawdust hanging by chains from the ceiling. Their hands were tied to their ankles, he continued, while the officers beat them with rubber hoses, bare fists, and anything else that was handy, trying to make them "confess." L. A. Calif.

Hollingsworth said he refused to admit stealing, but he and his brother were finally released after three days, the police keeping the Buick and $77 of their money. When he returned to the coast, he alleged, he learned that the car had been sold for $1,600 to a schoolteacher and that his mother, in Louisiana, had been notified by the teacher's husband that if Hollingsworth made any effort to recover the car, the husband would personally go to California and kill him.

'Persecuted' N. O. Postman Asserts He is Innocent

New Orleans, La.
Saturday 6-8-46

From his cell in Parish prison, where he is being held on $10,000 bonds after being charged with entering the homes of two white women, Raynold Smith, 30-year-old United States letter carrier of 2600 Valence Street, expressed his appreciation to local newspapers, the NAACP and other persons who have assisted his wife, Mrs. N. Smith, in securing legal counsel and in seeking bondsmen on Monday. Louisiana Weekly

In a letter to John E. Rousseau Jr., city editor of the New Orleans Informer-Sentinel, the accused man declared he was innocent, stating: 6-8-46

"You must believe me when I say that I know absolutely nothing about the charges made against me. Surely you must realize that maybe an innocent man's whole future is depending on a false accusation or a misidentificaton.

"If I can make bonds, I can help myself so much. My dear wife has done as much as she can and I'm afraid that she is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. If persons are afraid to trust me, I am willing to put up what collateral I have as well as my property. 6-8-46

"Can't you understand how much this means to me? I must be given a chance to help myself and I can do it much better if I can get out on bond. Will you ask the head of the postal organization to appeal to the carriers to help me in making these bonds so I can get out as soon as possible?"

Smith has been incarcerated since April 26 when he was arrested on a charge of entering the home of a white woman on Napoleon Avenue April 21, striking her on the head with a blunt instrument and robbing her of a wrist watch. His bond was set at $25,000 and while being held, he was again charged, on May 6 with entering the home of another white woman on March 27 and attempting to rape her. Bonds on this charge were set at $25,000 also. Louisiana Weekly

Many witnesses have signed statements to the effect that Smith could not have committed the crime of April 21 because he was in their company at the time it allegedly occurred. Other persons have said that police rushed to Smith's home less than a half hour after the April 21 crime was reported. 6-8-46

Despite the fact that Smith's home was surrounded less than a half hour after the crime, he was not arrested until April 26 when police officers and a woman went to the main post office, Camp and South Streets, where he was employed. It was there that the woman is alleged to have identified him, however, the local NAACP is investigating that angle.

Sergeant Patrick Bonner of the Seventh Precinct police station told a newspaperman that he had rushed the detail of police to Smith's home after hearing the description of the woman's alleged attacker because he "thought

Vet Brutalized For No Apparent Reason By Cop

Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La.

War Veteran Was On Way to City

Spoke Courteously

11-23-46

Cop Seemed to Resent GI's New Car

If ever any one gets to feeling that maybe registering and voting is not such an important thing, that after all things will right themselves gradually, they should have a talk with Johnnie A. Jones, ex-army officer of Scotlandville.

In an affidavit filed with Daniel E. Byrd, executive secretary of the New Orleans NAACP, Jones tells the following story:

On Tuesday, July 9, Jones, accompanied by Charles Jackson, P. O. Box 118, Scotlandville Branch, Baton Rouge, La., and Willie Lee, 12-year-old New Orleans lad of 2428 Magnolia Street, left his home to drive to New Orleans in his 1942 Hudson. About five miles north of his destination he was stopped by a state policeman. Jones got out of his car to meet the big burly, 200-pound cop, who had parked a few feet in front of Jones' car. Without a word from either man the policeman threw a haymaker and knocked Jones to the ground. After brutally kicking him several times the policeman pulled Jones to his feet, tearing his shirt. He struck the veteran several times again and pushed him into the police car, saying: "N——r, get in the car, you black s— of a b——." Jones still had not said a word but the police man added, "N——r, I should have shot you, you black s— of a b——."

A white motorist appeared on the scene and the policeman asked him if he had seen Jones speeding. The man did not reply and drove off.

The policeman loaded Jones and his two passengers in his car and headed toward LaPlace. After driving about two and a half miles the policeman began questioning Jones. He asked him where he was from, where he was going and who owned the car. Jones answered all the questions courteously. The policeman said he was going to check on the ownership of the car and drove back to where it was parked. He gave Jones back his keys and told him to get in the car and follow him. They went in the same direction as before, after going a short distance the policeman stopped and motioned Jones [illegible] the car saying, "N[illegible] you a break would you [illegible] there and drive right. [illegible] he would and the p[illegible]et Jackson and Lee out [illegible]. He asked for Jones' identification and was shown a G. I. claim card. The policeman told Jones to drive on with a warning that if he was ever picked up in that vicinity he would get a "year and a day" in jail. The policeman followed the three until they reached Tulane and S. Claiborne Avenues.

7-20-46

Jones contacted the NAACP immediately and is trying to get legal advice through that organization as to what steps might be taken against the state highway patrolman for such conduct.

Claims Officers Beat Her in Car

The Courier Sat. 9-7-46 Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEW ORLEANS—A communication received by NAACP State headquarters here from the St. John the Baptist Parish branch last week showed all too plainly that white Louisiana is firmly aligned with other Southern States in keeping alive the wave of terror sweeping the deep South.

Mrs. Rosa Gilbert, in a statement before the St. John the Baptist Parish NAACP, revealed that she was the innocent victim of a cruel beating, administered with the approval of local law-enforcement officers last month, from which she is still bedridden.

VICTIM'S OWN STORY

Mrs. Gilbert, a resident of Garyville, told thefollowing story:

July 27, two women were engaged in an argument in front of her house. Seeing her daughter walking in their direction, she went out to get her. Just then, a white man, Dick Martin, clerk of the St. John the Baptist Parish Court, came along and told her to stop making such a disturbance. Mrs. Gilbert said she had done nothing, but the man insisted she had been cursing loudly. He left and returned shortly with two deputy sheriffs, brothers named Delot.

The officers told the woman to get in their car, in which two brothers of the clerk were already seated. The sheriffs said they were taking her to the "sweat box," a small room where colored prisoners are held before appearance in court. Before reaching the jail, the sheriff stopped the car and told the Martin brothers, who were seated on either side of Mrs. Gilbert, to beat her all they wanted.

SADISTIC BEATING

The men beat her cruelly about the face and head, she said. By the time the party reached the jail, she was in such serious condition that the men decided to take her to Charity Hospital in New Orleans. She was refused admission because she did not have a certificate from a doctor.

Back at Garyville, Martin ordered medical treatment for her. At the time of her statement to the NAACP, Aug. 11, Mrs. Gilbert was still confined to her bed.

XU STUDENTS VICTIMS OF POLICE DRAGNET, FACULTY PROTEST

The Louisiana Weekly New Orleans, La.

Sat. 11-23-46

Three Xavier University students, two of them out-of-towners, were subjected last week-end to one of the most callous and irresponsible police "crime prevention" methods. Twenty-eight Xavier professors immediately registered a strong protest in an open letter to the Louisiana Weekly.

About eight o'clock Sunday evening the students, all men were picked up in a police dragnet and held incommunicado for 24 hours, even though they properly identified themselves as Xavier students.

The dragnet itself was not unusual. It is an all-too-familiar thing. Whenever a crime is committed by a colored person police round up a couple of dozen people for no other reason than that, to the police, they seem suspicious. What is unusual is that these men proved they were Xavier students and hence of at least probable good character, and that they were not allowed to communicate with college authorities. These students now have a police record which only the strongest protest can erase.

In the open letter the Xavier professors expressed strong resentment over what they termed "petty official prejudice and callousness."

The group pointed out that Xavier University "enjoys a singular distinction and a world-wide renown". They pointed out that many Xavier students are veterans who chose the university when they had the pick of colleges all over the country.

"But Xavier University has the right to expect the public authorities of New Orleans to appreciate the responsibility placed upon the college since Xavier is giving to this city some of its best trained colored citizens—doctors, teachers, nurses, artists, and above all, good mothers and fathers", the professors said.

"As a recognized institution of higher learning Xavier University accepts its acknowledged responsibility to its students and to the civil authorities and will stand by both. But we of the University resent petty official prejudice and callousness. We protest against injustice done in the name of routine procedure. We cannot accept as justice the judge's explanation: "You have no idea how many unsuspected criminals we pick up this way. Case dismissed."

"Yet police records against these young men stand. Such a state of affairs is vicious. We of the University must protest against it."

The letter was signed by George J. McKenna, Jr.; Julian A. Parker, student counselor; Father E. F. Murphy; H. J. Fields; Leola T. Melton; James J. Despinasse; Leon Barnes; Joseph C. Resh; James J. Connolly; I. D. Fagan; Oscar A. Bonigo; Father J. A. McInerney; I. L. Taylor; Dr. Wolfgang J. Weigart; Lawrence Ferrireg; M. C. D'Aronie; Otto B. Ramsey; Ellen R. Cavanaugh; Father Vincent J. O'Connell; Joan Stanley; Father Charles J. Willis; Eleanor M. Gallagher; Mary Agnes Keefe; Minnie L. Finley; Father B. J. Cunningham; Ruby V. Harstine; Father Robert M. Stahl; and Ferdinand L. Rousseve.

Policeman Cited For Violation Of Civil Rights

The Detroit Branch NAACP sent a formal complaint to Police Commissioner John Ballenger charging that Patrolman Carl L. Janke of the Traffic Division "intimidated and was party to the denial of the civil rights of Marvin Moorland, a veteran with 35 months service overseas."

Moorland was arrested Tuesday, June 11, by Janke while he was attempting to secure service in the Salad Bowl, on Grand River ave., near Broadway. Informed of the arrest by Gwendolyn Moorland, sister of the vet, the NAACP entered the case, supplied legal counsel, and obtained the discharge of Moorland.

Atty. Edward M. Turner, vice president of the NAACP, secured Moorland's release. No charges were filed against Moorland.

In a letter to Ballenger, Gloster B. Current, executive secretary of the NAACP said:

"The arrest of Moorland, a honorably discharged veteran, by an officer of the traffic division, Carl L. Janke, is a direct violation of the civil rights laws and negates the policy recently issued by your office instructing officers in the handling of civil rights cases.

"We were informed by your office April 8, 1946, that all commanding officers had been informed of procedure in these cases and provided with a copy of the Equal Accommodation Statute of Michigan. According to your own policy, the officer when called to an establishment where a violation of the civil rights has been reported, is to obtain the name and address of the violator and the complainant; he is to advise the complainant to report to the Precinct Detectives on the following morning "at which time the Precinct Detectives will assist the complainant in obtaining a recommendation for a warrant from the Prosecuting Attorney.

"Moorland has been eating at the establishment for several days. The proprietress has sought to prevent him from availing himself of the accommodations of the restaurant by instructing the girls to inform him that his presence was undesirable, by informing his employer at J. L. Hudson of the undesirability of his trade because it affected her business and finally, by calling in Officer No. 254 to advise him to trade elsewhere. These efforts to prevent Moorland, a veteran who fought for democracy overseas and realizes the necessity for applying it to present day-to-day relationships, from eating there were unavailing until officer Carl L. Janke stepped in.

"We charge that Janke had no right to place Moorland under arrest; that in doing so he was acting in cooperation with the proprietor who sought to prevent the veteran from eating in her establishment. The arrest of Moorland on investigation for disturbance of the peace without immediate filing of charges by the proprietor constituted police interference with the right of a citizen to receive equal accommodation under Michigan law. The officer acted wrongly in this instance and should be brought before the trial board.

"We demand that the arresting officer in this case be brought before the trial board and that further orders, instructions and memoranda implementing the fine policy of the department be issued in order to prevent future occurrence of this practice."

CHARGES. TEN WITH ASSAULT IN CLUB RAID

Blind 32 Years, Plaintiff Claims Officers Knew His Condition

A suit asking $100,000 damages against 10 Detroit policemen was filed Monday in Circuit Court by Charles Rollins, 37, of 101 Watson.

Rollins, who has been blind for 32 years, accused the policemen of beating him during a raid on a Musicians Club at 671 E. Adams, on Dec. 13, 1944.

Dragged, Beaten

The plaintiff charges in his bill of complaint that the officers dragged him out of the club although he told them he was blind and then beat him with blackjacks.

Defendants named in the bill are: Officers Robert Moon, Harold Fitzpatrick, Martin Blank, Edward Zadrowski, Ralph Cowan, Joseph Burne, Sylvester Linto and Kenneth Balhorn. Two other policemen were unidentified.

At the time of the raid, Rollins was living at 214 E. Columbia.

Court Dismisses Charge Against James Hereford

The case of assault and battery against James Hereford, of 50 Orchestra pl., who was severely beaten by police last August, was dismissed last week by Judge John P. Scallon.

Police charged that Hereford was beaten because he refused to accept a pedestrian ticket, and that he struck one of the officers in the process.

Hereford, a discharged veteran and graduate of West Virginia State College, was beaten on Woodward ave., near Orchestra pl., on Aug. 31, after he was stopped by the policemen in a squad car.

The police charged that Hereford had obstructed traffic and had used abusive language to them when they accosted him.

According to Hereford and witnesses, he was beaten on the street by two policemen and then beaten again in an alley in the proximity of the Canfield Station.

A mistrial was declared in September when one of the officers, Charles Fronrath, testifying, declared that it was necessary to manhandle Negroes on the East Side because several policemen had been cut in attempting to make arrests there.

Beaten By Police



William Stephens, 26, 2265 Superior, charges that he was beaten by the police last week while near Willis and Riopelle after one of the officers had accused him of calling him (the officer) "a liar." Stephens, a truck driver, charges he was struck in the left eye and that several stitches were needed to close the wounds sustained when he was struck on the head by an unidentified officer.

160 1946

Minnesota

Youths Beaten: Fined By Judge

The Defender
Chicago, Ill.

Suspended Sentences Follow Cops' Attack

Sat. 9-21-46

MINNEAPOLIS — Despite evidence of unprovoked police brutality, against two brothers here, Judge P. J. Jiorscak last week fined Alvin Peery, 20, and his brother, Carroll, 19, to 30 days in jail or a $25 fine each, on a 'disorderly conduct charge, suspending the sentence for a year.

The brothers were accosted by two policemen in Gateway Park two weeks ago while they were waiting to report for a job given them by Local 563, Building Trades Laborers Union. They did not answer questions to the satisfaction of Patrolmen William Baumfield and Peter Hallen, whereupon the officers began beating them. Alvin was arrested, and Carroll, who escaped part of the beating reported to court a few days later.

Hampers Tolerance Fight

Douglas Hall, counsel for the two youths, who was retained by the NAACP and the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, declared that the conviction would void efforts of the commission to end race prejudice among law enforcement officials.

While the two youths were being sentenced, an older brother, Nelson, 23, was free on $200 bond, awaiting hearing on a motion for a new trial. Earlier he had been sentenced to 90 days for indecent exposure on flimsy evidence after a 30-minute trial.

Peery was hauled from the dormitory of Concordia College in St. Paul, where he was attending a summer seminar on industrial relations. He was arrested without a warrant and charged with indecent exposure. At the first trial he was convicted on slight evidence, despite efforts of faculty members to have him acquitted.

The motion for a new trial, which is under advisement by the court, charges that the arrest was illegal, and states that new evidence has been discovered which will prove Peery's innocence. Peery, a native of Minneapolis, is a regular student at the University of Minnesota, and a veteran of World War II.

Negro, White Students Clash In Jackson, Miss.

JACKSON, Miss.—(ANP)—A 16-year-old Lanier High School girl, Amy Spurlock, daughter of Mrs. Ruby Spurlock, was in bed and out of school for several days after being beaten by a policeman last week following a clash of white and Negro school children near the viaduct on lower S. Gallitan st.

A number of other Negro school children at the scene were stopped and kicked by the policemen.

After being beaten, the young girl, along with Jessie Johnson, male student of Smith Robinson school, was arrested and taken to jail. The girl was charged with assault and abusive language and fined $40, and the boy was charged with disorderly conduct and fined $25. Their parents paid the fines.

According to reports, the clash resulted from a series of minor incidents between white and Negro children at the S. Gallitan st. viaduct. The white students, some of whom the reports said were armed with blackjacks, met the Negro students in force, the fight starting when one of the boys made an attempt to hit Amy Spurlock with a blackjack. While the two were engaged policemen came on the scene, one of whom knocked the young girl down and after kicking and striking her several times dragged her to the car by the hair.

Among others who were kicked and slapped were Pearl Johnson, Tenton Carey and Rufus Manning, all of Lanier High School.

Youth Loses Ticket, Put Off Train, Beaten

Savannah, Tribune, Ga.

Chicago 7-4-46

By Lewis O. Swingler

Memphis (ANP)—In a notarized statement to a Memphis attorney, John Taylor, 22-year-old Chicago youth, reported how he was forced from an Illinois Central passenger train by the conductor at Senatobia, Miss., Tuesday morning and then brutally beaten by officers of the town.

The incident, Taylor informed Lawyer A. A. Latting at his office here, occurred shortly after his train on which he was headed from Chicago to New Orleans had left the Memphis terminal.

Taylor said he reported to the conductor in Memphis that he had lost his railroad ticket, but showed the train official his baggage stub as proof that his fare out of Chicago had been paid. The conductor however, waited until after the train had left Memphis and made a second stop, which was Senatobia, Miss., before taking action against Taylor.

Immediately after the train stopped at Senatobia, two officers came into the colored coach and grabbed Taylor, forcing him off the train. The youth was struck by one of the officers as soon as he was on the ground. He was then taken to the town's jail where his bag was searched and he was again struck several times by the officers. One of his jaw teeth was knocked out. Taylor brought his tooth, wrapped in a handkerchief, back to Memphis as evidence of the attack made on him.

Chicago 7-4-46

"You boys go up north, stay a while, and then get smart," one of the officers told Taylor.

The youthful victim said he gave the officers no back talk at all.

"They took $1.75 from me, and then told me to beat it to the highway and out of town," Taylor added. "I picked up a ride to Memphis in a truck driven by some colored people."

The officers started to tear up his baggage stub, but after he pleaded with them to return it in order to identify his luggage. "They looked at each other, whispered something, and then threw it at me," Taylor asserted. "I only had $2 left after they took part of my money. There never was a charge pressed against me."

Taylor asserted that the officers kept him locked up in jail at Senatobia about an hour.

Notwithstanding the fact that other passengers on the coach where Taylor was riding offered to take up the money to take care of the transportation fare from Memphis to New Orleans, the conductor seemed more bent on forcing him off the train. He refused to accept the equivalent of the fare from Memphis to New Orleans from the other passengers, Taylor said. The youth was confident that the conductor had sent a message to Senatobia for the officers to be on hand shortly after he reported the loss of his ticket to him, the victim added.

Senatobia in 1933 was the scene of a sensational lynching case in which a Negro, Jeff Williams, was killed. Williams had killed his half brother, a deputy sheriff, in a pistol duel.

CITY OF FEAR

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 9-28-46

Murder, Hate, Rule Tylertown

TYLERTOWN, Miss. — Guarded reports of mass floggings of Negroes in the past few months, came to light here last week adding another black page to the sordid history of this hate filled town where lynchings, tortures and horse whippings are a common practice to officials and citizens.

Last month, during a police beating orgy Navy Veteran Edro Taylor ws attacked by police in civilian clothing. When he sought to defend himself he was shot in the lung, taken to the jail and beaten. Later he was taken to a hospital, and when he recovered, he and his wife were forced to hide from a lynch mob. Tried for assaulting an officer, Taylor was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary Aug. 14.

Tylertown, one of the many fascist ulcers in the American body politic, a town of 2,500 souls, is the seat of Walthall County. Located a few miles above Washington Parish, La., it has easy access to that infamous parish's whipping ground. Recent victims flogged by Tylertown mobs were taken over the state line so that the beatings could be carried out in the accepted tradition.

Terror Fills History

Tylertown has an unbelievably bloody background. Twenty-five years ago, two Negroes were taken from the jail and hanged from a nearby bridge. Twelve years ago a 14-year-old boy was lynched in the same place. Six years ago, Arthur Williams was shot down by Herbert Holmes, a white man, as he stood talking to friends. Holmes forced other Negroes to put the wounded Williams into his car. There he shot him again, taking his dead body to the courthouse and dumping it on the lawn. No arrest was made.

A notorious flogging was that of Buford Dillons, who was mistakenly accused of stealing truck accessories from F. A. Phano, owner of a truck line. Dillons was delivered to a mob at gun point by another Negro, Johnny "Red Devil" Spike. Dillons was taken to Louisiana for the whipping ritual, and then returned to Tylertown. Shortly afterward, the stolen property was found in possession of a white man named Schumaker, who was never punished for the crime.

Mobs Attack Women

Tylertown brutality is not limited to men. On June 13, Mrs. Melardson Dunham was brutally beaten in the office of Mayor Bob Lampton, because a bystander did not like the way she asked a white man to move his car from her driveway. She complained to her employer, Mrs. Minnie Ball, who protested to police chief Albert Sullivan. Two days later, Mrs. Dunham was taken back to the mayor's office and beaten unconscious.

Saturday nights police have a carnival orgy, the highlights of which are called "headskinning" and "burning." Headskinning consists of beating Negroes on the streets with pistol butts or billies. Burning is more elaborate. It is performed in the police station and consists of beating the victim with a heavy leather "strop," until the policeman becomes exhausted. Ed Cousins was given the treatment Sept. 7.

Voting for Negroes in Tylertown is out of the question. Although many own large tracts of land and have paid their poll taxe and property tax for years they are repeatedly told by Circuit Court Clerk M. L. Holmes, "You're not qualified." Bilbo spoke here this summer. His text was "Keep the Nigger in His Place."

Whose Police Power?

Charleston, S. C.

While Mississippi law enforcement agencies were engaged in searching out a group of men who had fired on policemen, the United States department of justice directed the sheriffs that "orderly processes of law should prevail at all times". News accounts reported no lynching mobs, only sheriff's posses.

Where does the federal government fit into the picture? News & Courier

What law of congress is involved in capturing persons who have disturbed the peace of a sovereign state? There may be no more than a desire to meddle by overzealous jobholders, but their impatience with the reservation of police power to the states should not boil over into improper intervention. News 8-22-46

It would be time enough for Washington to step in should it be found that federal law has been violated. The acting governor of Mississippi, Fielding Wright, visited the scene and after satisfying himself of the safety of the prisoners, he observed "I knew there was nothing wrong down here, but I got calls from the North, and came down to see for myself".

The extraordinary step by the department of justice smacks of trial in a kangaroo court of police officers in absentia, with a finding of guilt by presumption before any evidence has come into existence. Are the police no longer innocent until proven guilty?

In Mississippi

Navy Vet. Victim Of Brutal Police

The Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 9-21-46

NEW ORLEANS — Mississippi's defiant injustice was unleashed again three weeks ago when Edro Taylor, a 25-year-old honorably discharged former seaman first class of the U. S. Navy and resident of Tylertown was beaten unmercifully, shot, intimidated and sentenced to six years in the State Penitentiary for defending himself against brutal law officers of Tylertown, Daniel E. Byrd, president of the Louisiana NAACP branches, told The Courier last week.

Acting on a request from the National NAACP office, Mr. Byrd, accompanied by local newspapermen, fully investigated Taylor's case last week. He reports that Taylor was discharged from the Navy Christmas day, 1945, at the New Orleans Separation Center, after serving twenty-six months, twenty-four of them in the Pacific Theatre. While Taylor was seated in an establishment operated by Hiberd Esco of Tylertown, Walthall County, where liquor is prohibited, the night of Jan. 6, one of the persons present threw an empty flask, which barely missed Lloyd Simmons. He called the police, Mr. Byrd's report reveals.

BRUTALIZE CITIZENS

Wearing civilian clothes, four officers of Tylertown, including Albert Sullivan, the town marshal; Otha Yarber, Fred Fortenberry and Albert Futch arrived on the scene, the NAACP reports, and after Sullivan left, the three others began to strike those in the restaurant with clubs and guns. Taylor, who did not know that the men were officers, began to walk out of the establishment, the report points out, but he was shoved back and beaten with a club of Officer Yarber. The report states that Taylor, acting in self-defense, pulled out a knife and inflicted slight wounds on Officers Futch and Fontenberry. Following this action all three officers began to beat Taylor with their clubs and Futch stepped back and shot him (Taylor) in the right side.

Mr. Byrd also stated that Taylor was taken to the city jail where the officers continued their abuse and a mob of about twenty-five white men formed to take him from the jail for a lynch party. Luckily, Town Marshal Sullivan arrived upon the scene, dispursed the mob, ordered the beating stopped and had Taylor sent to Pittman Hospital where doctors revealed a bullet had torn through his lungs, the report continues.

GUARDED IN HOSPITAL

While in the hospital three months, with his legs shackled spread-agle fashion in the bed and handcuffed, Taylor was under guard night and day, and only his wife, Mrs. Selma Taylor, and his mother were permitted to see him.

Following his release from the hospital, Taylor was returned to the jail and eventually released by Seth Ginn, circuit chancery clerk, for whom he went to work May 6. Around 7 o'clock the same evening, Officers Yarber and Fontenberry and two white men arrived at the home where Taylor and his wife were living, knocked and tried to break down the door, shook the rear doors and windows and threw rocks against the house, the report continues.

STENCED TO SIX YEARS

After reporting the incident to Mr. Ginn, the Taylors were not troubled any more. Denied a lawyer, Taylor was tried Aug. 14, and admitted guilt to cutting the officers in self defense, the report reveals. He was pronounced guilty of assault and battery with attempt to kill, and was taken to the State peniteniary at Parchman, Aug. 20, to begin a six-year term. Esco, who operated the restaurant, was forced to close his establishment and leave town because of local police intimidation, the NAACP report concluded. 9-21-46

Correcting Police Brutality

Olaindealer Kansas City, Mo.

Reports are that William Todd, white police officer, who brutally attacked Cab Calloway a few weeks ago has been demoted in the Kansas City, Missouri department. . . . That's not enough! He should be fired. One way to correct police brutality is to get rid of men who use brutal force on human beings just because they have the authority. To allow such men to continue on by mere demotion is a soft way of reprimanding, but does not solve the problem. It also encourages others who might have similar ideas of beating up citizens that they can get away with the same thing. Men, who do not know how to handle citizens with intelligence should not be on any body's police department. We need the best thinkers in police duty today as never before. Intelligent police can keep down a lot of trouble and racial friction.

A Dangerous Man With a Gun

William Todd, the police officer who assaulted Cab Calloway with the butt of his revolver, is a dangerous man to have a gun. In fact, he is a dangerous man to be entrusted with police authority.

Now that Calloway has been cleared in court of the three charges placed against him, Officer Todd's action should be thoroughly investigated by the board of police commissioners. A man who assaults men with guns and children with kicks does not belong on a police force which sets such high standards for its officers that it says the score or more of Negro applicants who have sought appointment "do not meet the qualifications."

If Todd is an example of the type of men that the Kansas City police department wants, thank God we have no Negro men who do qualify.

With two definite charges of police brutality against Todd, the police board should act now to prevent an even more serious offense from being committed by this officer in the future if he is permitted to get away without punishment or dismissal.

The few days off that he was denied in 1944 after an investigation of the charge that he kicked a 17-year-old youth, evidently was not enough punishment to make Todd think twice before he assaulted Cab Calloway a year later. The police commissioners must act now to safeguard the public welfare. Surely, they cannot be at peace with themselves with a man like Todd on the force.

Trenton Police Shoot Youth

Chicago Defender
Carolina Visitor
Accused Of Rape
Sat. 5-18-46

TRENTON, N. J. — Hamilton Township police last week shot and seriously wounded James Everitt, a 20-year-old Negro accused of "rape."

Everitt was shot in the back as he dashed for the door of the police station after being picked up and confronted by a hysterical white girl who accused him of raping her the night before.

The youth, who lives in North Carolina, is here visiting his brother, stationed at Fort Kilmer, and was living with his cousin, Mrs. Bertha Bryant, 315 Grand ave.

Reporter Probes Case

According to a reporter for the Worker who investigated the case, Everitt was at the Bryant home at the time of the alleged rape, Sunday night, April 28.

"I got home that night at 7:15 p.m.," Mrs. Bryant related. "I remember turning on the program, the Green Hornet at 7:30 p.m. and Jimmy was listening, too.

"Then I heard Dick Track 'till 8:30 p.m. Jimmy came down at 8:30 p.m. to fix some kindling wood for the bath. He went back up to bathe. He couldn't have got out without my hearing him. I went to bed at 10:30 p.m., and he was in his room," she said.

The alleged rape took place "a little after 8 p.m.," according to the Trenton Times account.

Denies Charge Sat. 5-18-46

The wounded youth, in a serious condition at the St. Francis Hospital, told the Worker reporter, "I had nothing to do with it. I was home all night."

Everitt explained that he ran at the police station when the girl "recognized" him because he was afraid the police were going to "give it to me" after the accusation.

The reporter also talked with the mother and stepfather of the alleged rape victim. They insisted their daughter had been raped, citing the police department's physician Dr. Miller.

Everitt was arrested by police in the same spot opposite the White City Skating Rink, where the rape was supposed to have occurred the night before.

The Communist Party of Trenton has taken the lead in seeing that Everitt is not mobbed. The Hamilton Township police have had a long anti-Negro tradition. Less than a year ago the burning cross of the KKK was seen in the neighborhood, which has a heavy Negro population.

Bayonne Cops Frame Negro

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Wed 7-24-46

Mike Choice, 19-year-old Alabama Negro youth, came all the way to Bayonne, N. J., to learn that discrimination and injustice to Negroes were not confined to the South.

Last Thursday, Recorder James L. Sweeney sentenced Choice to 90 days in jail for asking a 13-year-old girl directions to get to a carnival in town. Initial efforts were made to charge Choice with molesting the girl. They dropped this and finally police struck on a charge that the lad obstructed the girl's passage. Police held Choice incommunicado for 48 hours.

The whole case was based on a signed "confession" which was secured by police, even though Choice can neither read nor write. After he was arrested police threatened him with a rubber hose in the police station. Choice charges that one of the detectives walked over to him with the hose in hand and threatened to hit him if he didn't sign the "confession." Wed 7-24-46

Choice is now out on $500 bail provided by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, pending an appeal of the police court decision. The organization is holding a meeting tonight (Wednesday) to protest the frameup, at the Friendship Baptist Church, parish of Rev. C. H. S. Watkins of the NAACP.

16d 1946 New York



William Dessaure and his attorney, Stanley Faulkner, arrive at the courthouse.

Open Trial of Negro Beaten By L. I. Police

Daily Worker, New York
Sat 6-22-46

By John Hudson Jones
New York Dy.

ROCKVILLE CENTER, L. I., June 21.—With Nassau District Attorney James Gehrig conferring frequently with the prosecutor, trial of William Dessaure, Negro, who says he was beaten by police and then arrested, opened here today before Judge Maurice J. Moore.

Dessaure, latest victim of Nassau police brutality against Negroes which brought death to Richard and Alfonzo Ferguson and saw the reemergence of the Ku Klux Klan, placed a counter-charge of assault against Police Sgt. Joseph F. Garvey. 6-22-46

Four officers beat him up at 3 a. m. June 8 after he had come to police headquarters to report a gambling joint at 15 Wellington St., Dessaure charged.

The Wellington St. address went unraided, though police visited it.

After the call, officers attacked him, Dessaure says.

The formal charge against Dessaure, is that he assaulted an officer right in the police station while four policemen looked on.

Garvey reversed himself under cross examination today.

Although his complain accuses Dessaure of seizing an officer's nightstick and hitting him with it, he switched his story on the stand.

This time, he left out the nightstick and said Dessaure grabbed the patrolman by the throat and knocked him to the ground with a blow.

Desk Sgt. John Pabst stuck to the nightstick story, testified that Dessaure was under the influence of liquor and that he used "profane" language. However, Dr. Joseph E. Press, police doctor, who was in the station part of the time, testified he didn't think Dessaure was under the influence of liquor though he had been drinking. 6-22-46

Pabst's performance on the stand indicated strongly that he had committed his testimony to memory.

A doctor and a dentist from Meadowbrook Hospital testified on Dessaure's injuries. The trial was adjourned until 10 a.m. Monday.

The Freeport Pattern:

Young Negro Musician Badly Beaten by Cops

Daily Worker

Another example of police brutality against Negroes came to light yesterday when the family of Carlton Powell disclosed that he was so terribly beaten by police that it will take a month before the 22-year-old musician will recover.

Powell, bass player in the Herman Chittison Trio, was beaten almost to death last Thursday morning at 2:30 after an argument at 50th St. and Sixth Ave. with a taxi driver who refused to take him to his home at 20 Morningside Ave. The taxi driver, Dave Romanick, drove Powell to the police station at East 51 St., where three plain clothesmen pounced on the youthful musician. Wed. 6-19-46

He is presently at Bellevue under $2,500 bail suffering from a possible fracture of the skull, three lacerations on the back of his head, one laceration which split his forehead to the bone, contusion of the left face, three upper teeth knocked out, a lower tooth knocked out and one broken.

New York

Powell is charged with stabbing Detective Edward Clancy. The musician is known to have carried a knife but his brother "Specs," also a well-known musician, claims it was used in self-defense. Powell, himself is too ill to reconstruct the incident except to repeat over and over again **"Why did they do this to me."**

"Specs" Powell is convinced Carlton acted in self-defense because the police blotter shows no cause for pursuit by the police. The blotter claims Powell used a knife on a police officer who was pursuing him. It contains no charge by the taxi driver. The blotter only refers to what happened after Powell was beaten at the station.

Wed.

Carlton Powell is on the Lanny Ross radio program. 6-19-46

Incidents of police attacks on Negroes have become more numerous in New York City.

N. Y.

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr. recently charged that the Police Department is maintaing a policy of "suspicion" regarding Negro citizens in so-called white areas of the city after an arbitrary curfew hour.

Davis himself is a victim of police invasion of Negro rights. His car was stopped by a policeman May 7 at 16 Street and Seventh Avenue, merely because he was driving with

George Charney, white, and Robert Campbell, Negro.

Witnesses Testify to Beating Of William Dessaure by Cops

Daily Worker Wed 6-26-46
New York Dy.

By John Hudson Jones

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L. I., June 25.—Second degree assault charges were made today against three more Rockville Centre policemen by Stanley Faulkner, attorney for William J. Dessaure.

Continuing examination of evidence in the police court hearing, Faulkner again uncovered conflicting testimony by the policemen who charged Dessaure with assaulting them. It has now been established from the cops' own testimony that Dessaure was savagely beaten. Two of them — Patrolmen Wells and Healy — displayed contemptuous, anti-Negro attitudes. In referring to Hilton Howard, a Negro witness, Healy said: "He's just another colored boy to me." Both Healy and Wells boasted of how they beat Dessaure with their sticks.

Each cop, as well as Desk Sergeant Pabst, has made different statements concerning identical incidents. For instance, Pabst claimed he had received a radio call from Sergeant Garvey. Garvey also testified he had made this call. Healy, however, who was in the car with Dessaure and Garvey, at the time of the alleged radio call, emphatically denied it had been made.

Today several Negro eyewitnesses testified the cops did beat Dessaure, and one of them, Joe White, charged Wells threatened to shoot him "between your g-d d----d black eyes."

6-26-46

The Court was startled today when Assistant District Attorney Frank Gulotta sharply cross-examined his own witnesses in an attempt to discredit their testimony.

The hearing, which is for the purpose of determining whether or not the case goes to the grand jury, will be resumed Friday at 10 a.m.

'Police Brutality' Charged

Daily Worker

Dashiell Hammett, president of the Civil Rights Congress of New York, asked Mayor O'Dwyer yesterday to take immediate action to stop "police brutality" and cited three cases in the last six weeks in which, he said, "police officers have wantonly beaten and injured Negro men and women, then charged them with crimes to cover themselves up."

Monday 6-24-46

New York

Cops Brutally Beat Freeport Minister

Shades of hate and prejudice again shadowed Long Island and within a stone's throw of the now infamous city of Freeport. Following too closely on the heels of the murder of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, cops in Rockville Center brutally beat a Negro minister, Rev. William J. Dessaure, 36, early Sunday morning. The savage beating took place when two policemen, Arthur L'Hommedieu and Louis M. Wells tried to force Dessaure to "confess" that he hit them. Dessaure had reported to police headquarters that gambling was in process at Wellington pl. and that a police Sergeant was kibitizing the game. He made the complaint Friday. After being detained at the police station for about an hour and a half, he was placed in a police car to investigate the alleged gambling. On arrival at Wellington pl. it was found deserted whereupon the police pounced upon the minister with a deluge of foul language and accusing him of initiating a "wild goose chase" in the middle of the night.

Witnesses told that the police began the ruthless beating, trying to force Dessaure to admit that he hit the police. One onlooking cop, according to the witness, shouted "Let me have that black nigger, I want to kill him." Dessaure refused to admit that he hit the cops and was threatened with death.

Another man, also a Negro, saw the beating from his window and pleaded with police to stop. He too found guns trained upon his head, and was extended an invitation to come down.

After the flogging, the minister was thrown into the police car and driven to jail. Police claimed the Rev. Dessaure attacked them with their own night sticks and booked him on second degree assault.

He was released on $2,000 bail Tuesday morning. Bail was posted by Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport. The Rev. Theodore Bibilin and Henry Doliner, executives of the Nassau Conference for Human Rights, accused Rockville police of "brutal assault."

Flash! Flash!

A full grand jury investigation of the beating of Rev. William Dessaure by Rockville Center police, Friday, has been promised by District Attorney James N. Gehrig.

Here's a 'way past bedtime story from li'l ol' New York

NEW YORK—Patrolling around in their squad car about 1:45 of a dark New York morning last week, two alert white policemen saw a "suspicious" looking Chevrolet making its way down a white neighborhood street and ordered it to pull over to the curb.

Getting out to investigate, the policemen found two Negroes and a white inside the Chevrolet. They hastily withdrew with the explanation that they were only "doing their duty", after the occupants identified themselves as George Charney, secretary of the Manhatton county Communist party; Robert Campbell, executive secretary of the Harlem Communist party; and Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., city councilman.

Later in the day, police commissioner Arthur W. Wallander received a letter from councilman Davis inquiring "whether the police department is trying to bring to New York the imperialist pass system which is practiced in South Africa where the British authorities require the native African to secure passes before they go from one section of the territory to another . . . whether we are to have in New York the fascist-like system used in Maimi, Fla., where Negro citizens are required to have special permits if they are found in the 'white section' of the city 'after hours'

The commissioner replied with a letter apologizing for any inconvenience put upon the councilman by the incident and stating that he was "reasonably sure" the two policemen were motivated by nothing more than the performance of their duty. He added that if an investigation found them guilty of any "fascist-like" intentions, there would be appropriate penalties.

Complaint on Gambling Den Brought Savage Beating

By John Hudson Jones

GOP Won't Budge On Freeport Crimes

Nassau County, Long Island, N. Y., a Republican stronghold, has in the last four months been the scene of murder, police terror, and vandalism, directed against Negro and Jewish citizens.

On Feb. 5 a Freeport policeman, Joseph Romeika, shot and killed the two Ferguson brothers, Negroes.

William J. Dessaure, 36, of 90 Liberty Ave., Freeport, New York, yesterday told the Daily Worker how he was savagely beaten by Rockville Centre policemen, though innocent of any crime. He had complained to them about a gambling house, and an abusive policeman he saw there.

Dessaure identified the officers as Arthur L'Hommedieu, Louis Wells, Sergeant Garvey, and another whose badge number he thinks was "429."

Bandages, bruised and lacerated arms, lost teeth, and a head wound, show the extent of the beating. Dessaure is in bed, unable to walk. X-Ray pictures have been made to determine any possible fractures.

"I walked into the house looking for a man that I owed some money. I had been told he was there. As I walked in I noticed a cop standing in the room drinking from a beer bottle. My friend wasn't there. I remarked to another fellow that the 'house' even had 'police protection.' The cop heard me and cursed at me. I said nothing, and when I got into the street I decided to report him to the station house," Dessaure re-

"You dirty black —— what're you trying to do? Make a fool of us?"

Dessaure answered that he wasn't whereupon one of them rammed the end of a night stick into his mouth. "I grabbed at the stick, and another one hit me on the knee with his and pushed me backwards."

L'Hommedieu and Wells claim that Dessaure took their sticks and "assaulted" them. When questioned about this, Dessaure said, **"Maybe when I grabbed the stick in my mouth and fell over, my feet hit one but I swear I never tried to fight back."**

It is at this point that Dessaure's story is corroborated by four eye witnesses, who have been supoenaed for an investigation by the Nassau County District Attorney.

NMU-CIO Sailors Fight Fascism --On Land, Too

NEW YORK.—Among the first to fight Fascism on the seven seas, sailors of the National Maritime Union, CIO, fought "Fascist-like" police brutality in New York last week in the defense of two Negro NMU brothers, Clyde Allen and Henry Della.

The union charged New York plainclothemen with entering the home of Della "without warrant, without justification and without showing badges." NMU further charged a police with beating one of the guests present for referring to him as "Jack."

In the case of Taylor, a policeman mercilessly assaulted him, fracturing his arm and injuring his thigh—with no justification whatsoever. When Taylor filed a complaint at 116th st. and Lenox ave., he was immediately arrested.

The NMU disclosed that in both cases Atty. William L. Standard has filed claims against the city of New York, seeking damages for the men involved.

Previously, in Beaumont, Tex., National Sec'y Ferdinand Smith denounced the case of John W. Terry, another NMU sailor, as a replica of "bestiality and horror performed by Fascists during the war."

Terry, a crew member of the SS Attleboro, was "insulted by Texas police, held at gun point, beaten with iron pipe, robbed of $75 and arrested" for the "crime" of sitting with white fellow crew members in a bus coming from Galveston.

The NMU is investigating the case and has demanded exposure and punishment of the criminals by the Department of Justice.

Four months and three days later, four Rockville Centre policemen beat and arrested William J. Dessaure, Negro, and threatened to kill two Negro eyewitnesses.

Two weeks prior to Dessaure's beating, Rockville Centre vandals broke into the B'nai Sholom School, smashed typewriters, spilled mimeograph ink around, and scrawled "Heil Hitler" and "Kill the Jews" in red ink on the front of the building.

MAYOR'S ROLE

The Hempstead Newsday publicly stated on March 20 that it knew of plans for the resurgence of terror groups aimed at Negroes in the vicinity of Freeport.

Mayor Herbert Hirschell of Hempstead admitted he had confidential information that "persons and patriotic groups" would break up a mass meeting called by the Committee for Justice in Freeport to protest the killing of the Fergusor brothers. He banned the meeting to "protect it."

As a result of an expose of the Klan by the Committee for Justice in Freeport, headed by Miss Dorothy Langston, it was shown that Horace A. Demarest, Dewey-appointed Deputy Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in Queens, was an old-time Ku Kluxer. The pressure on Dewey was so terrific he subsequently removed Demarest.

Republican State Attorney Nathaniel Goldstein "declared" a phony war on the Klan, and has since moved to revoke its charter, though his action has yet to be completed.

The important thing to remember is that if the Klan met secretly before it was exposed, it will certainly meet secretly after its charter is revoked. For this reason Miss Langston charged Dewey with "pussyfooting" on the Klan investigation. She has further charged that on the basis of information gathered by the Justice in Freeport Committee, and on the statements made by the **Hempstead Newsday** and Mayor Hirschell, the Klan, instead of being smashed, is "enjoying almost complete freedom and widespread influence."

Negro and white citizens of Freeport, Rockville Centre, and Hempstead are incensed over the reoccurrence of the acts of police terror, and feel local officials who shield the Klan are linked with the widespread gambling, police graft, and Republican politics in the county.

City Cop Slugs Negro Woman Who Asked for Cab Home

Daily Worker New York N. Y. Sat. 7-20-46

By John Hudson Jones

A New York policeman, Patrolman Perconti (badge No. 19604), brutally beat and kicked a Negro woman in Harlem, early last Sunday morning following the refusal of a cab driver to take her and and two friends to the Bronx. Sat. 7-20-46

Mrs. Josie Stewart, 701 Crotona Park North the Bronx, has a severe lip cut that required seven stiches, and suffering from internal injuries caused by several kicks she received in the stomach and back.

A dress trimmer and member of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Mrs. Stewart told the Daily Worker that she and Mrs. Helen Urquhart of 641 175th, and Miss Leitha Griffin also of 701 Crotona Park North, had been visiting friends and her aunt.

About 2 a. m. Sunday they hailed a cab and Mrs. Stewart got in. Her friends followed. The driver had thrown the flag, but on learning the Bronx address, he refused them passage.

"I told him he had no right to refuse us, and he insisted that we get out of the cab. We got out and there was a police car across the street so I called for a cop. One came over and when I started to tell him what happened he pushed me away from the cab and told the driver to go on."

"The cop cursed at me and said 'You people are always making trouble.' I asked him what he meant and he hit me in the mouth with his stick. Blood gushed over my face and he hit me again. Then he pushed me over to the car and took me to the 28th Precinct Station house."

Mrs. Stewart said she was not booked immediately, but that Perconti took her to the back of the station and again started to abuse her. "He told me to pull my girdle down, and when I did he kicked me behind and punched me. I started screaming and crying and he snatched my wallet from me. I had thirty dollars and some change. He took the bills and threw the change all over the floor. When I stopped over to pick it up he kicked me again." Sat. 7-20-46

Perconti then took her to the Sydenham Hospital where her lip was stitched. Mrs. Stewart said he left the room where she was being treated and soon came back with his shirt sleeve torn. "He told the doctor that I had hurt his arm and that he wanted it treated. The doctor just looked at him. Then the nurse wrapped it up."



Police Terror Again: When Mrs. Josie Stewart (right) of the Bronx called a cop to demand that a cab driver take her and friends home from lower Harlem, she was beaten and kicked. Visible above is a deep gash in her lip that required seven stitches. Mrs. Helen Urquhart, left, was kicked on her leg in the 28th Precinct Police Station. —Daily Worker Photo

She was taken back to the station and fingerprinted, and while this was going on Perconti brought in knife, laid it down on a table beside her and said, "Don't you want your knife?" She denied that it was hers and he insisted that she had cut his shirt with the knife.

By this time Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Urquhart, and Miss Griffin had arrived at the 28th precinct station. Mr. Stewart said the desk sergeant had refused "to give me any information when I went in He said he wanted to see the other 'girls'. As soon as they came in they were arrested and booked on the same 'assault' charges as my wife. If they had done anything why didn't he arrest them along with her?"

The women were taken to cells and as they went in a cop kicked Mrs. Urquhart on her right leg. She began crying and the matron threatened to put soap in her mouth, and to tie her to the bars, she said.

At a 10 a. m. court hearing at 100 Centre St. that Sunday a police sergeant told the judge that Perconti had to go home because of an injured arm.

This last incident in a growing wave of police crimes against Negroes, was reported to Councilman Davis's office. Sat. 7-20-46

Davis said: "These crimes against the Negro people have got to stop. Freeport, N. Y.; Columbia, Tenn.; Rockville Centre, N. Y.. Aiken, S. C. —and now this is too much We are going to have justice this time, or the citizens of New York will want to know the reason why."

Davis to Expose Dewey's Bias Tonight



Thurs. 8-29-46

THE ANTI-NEGRO RECORD will challenge Dewey's protestations. Dewey will be given a tions against Bilbo by demanding thorough going-over when Ben- that the governor publicly call for jamin J. Davis, Communist coun- the impeachment of the Mississilman, broadcasts on WMCA (570 ippi Klu Klux in the Senate. Davis ke) tonight at 8:45 p.m. Davis, the is also expected to charge Dewey Party's candidate for U. S. Sen- with maneuvering to keep Charles ator from New York, is expected to expose Dewey's recent attempts to pose as a friend of the Negro people. The Communist candidate

SENTIMENT RISES TO WIDEN PROBE TO INCLUDE BRUTALITY

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 8-29-46

By Harold Mehling

The second day of the probe into police links with vice interests began to look like a no-action talkfest yesterday as sentiment in New York jelled for a widening of the investigation to take in instances of cop brutality.

Eight police inspectors were called into Commissioner of Investigations John M. Murtagh's office and quizzed on reports that at least 300 plainclothesmen have been taking payoffs from vice and gambling interests.

Bookies around town were alternately reported dropping out of sight and carrying on business as usual, and it was generally conceded that they considered the flurry a routine big-talk operation, while watching it carefully for signs it might affect them.

The long history of police brutalities against Negroes and especially Negroes in company of whites, plus the lack of protection afforded Negroes in recent attacks by Christian Front gangs, brought from Communist City Councilman Ben Davis a warning that this was the time to clean up on that aspect of police department corruption.

Davis said the sordid conditions brought to light in the police force was proof that Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander's recent statement that a **"campaign of calumny"** was being waged against the department by Davis and the Communist Party was "entirely cockeyed."

SITUATION BAD

"Apparently the situation is so bad in the police department that the Mayor and the Police Commissioner themselves have had to go outside the department to get a thorough investigation," Davis said.

"Wherever you find corruption, you find discrimination, and it's not surprising that there has been wide-spread police brutality against Negroes in New York. It's not surprising that there have been vicious gang attacks against Negroes in places like Greenwich Village, since they have been met with complete indifference."

Plans to check into bank accounts of plainclothesmen under suspicion of protecting the vice and gambling interests, and to question bookies, were extended to a five-state survey, including New

Harlem Cop Slugs Half-Blind Negro

Daily Worker New York, N. Y. Thurs. 7-23-46

By John Hudson Jones

One of New York's "finest" (badge No. 19184) has again beaten and threatened to kill a Negro citizen, in what appears to be a deliberate police campaign to terrorize Negroes. James Slappy, a half-blind elderly man of 4 W. 101 St., hailed a cab last Friday, about 3:30 a.m., at 110 St. and Eighth Ave. He had no more than gotten into the cab when the cop rushed up with drawn gun and ordered him out, all the while cursing him and threatening to shoot.

Having committed no crime, Slappy was amazed and bewildered by the cop's action, but got out and asked the cab driver to wait. The cop ordered the driver away immediately, saying, "Get on about your business, this black ----- ain't gonna ride in a cab no more tonight."

The cop had a straw hat in his hand, and after he accused Slappy of an attempted holdup, he made him try on he hat which he said belonged to the holdup man.

The hat was several sizes too small for his head and Slappy said the cop then marched him around to an areaway in 110th St. just off 8th Ave where his partner was waiting.

"When we got there he called his buddy and asked him if I was the one. His buddy said he didn't think I was the fellow. They made me put on the hat again but it wouldn't fit. I started to say that he had no right to treat me after that fashion, and before I got out two words he struck me in the mouth with a black jack splitting my lip, and knocking out several of my false teeth."

"I fell from the force of the blow and he pointed his gun at my head and threatened to blow my brains out. His buddy grabbed his arm and told him not to shoot me. My mouth was bleeding very fast, and I was choking from the teeth that I almost swallowed. After that he took me to the 28th Precinct station."

Slappy was booked on charges of attempted burglary, disorderly conduct, abusive language, and causing a crowd to gather. At the station house the cop threatened to beat him with a billy and tried to provoke an argument with him, but Slappy said he refused to talk.

A hearing was held at the Washington Heights court that same morning at 10:30, and the judge asked him to plead guilty "because the charge is a minor one and I'll give you a suspended sentence." Slappy refused to plead guilty and asked for some time to get a lawyer. The judge asked the cop if that was all right and the cop said that it wasn't. Slappy challenged this and asked the judge whether he was entitled to a lawyer. The judge then postponed the hearing until July 24, and released him in his own custody.

Slappy, an electrical repairman, took his case to Councilman Davis' office.

"I intend to fight it until I get some kind of justice. I am almost blind and am an old man, and I didn't think such a thing could happen in New York. I have read about it happening to other people but now I have a split lip and lost teeth to remind me that when Negroes go into the streets now their lives are in danger."

This incident follows on the heels of the police beating of a Negro woman two weeks ago, after a cab driver had refused to take her and friends to the Bronx.

FORCE POLICE HEARING ON BEATING OF NEGRO

By John Hudson Jones

Indignation at police attacks on Negro men and women has forced a departmental investigation into the beating and intimidation of 59-year old James Slappy last july 19. At a preliminary hearing Monday at the West 123 St 28th precinct station Slappy preferred charges against Patrolem alfred F. Fondlier (badge No. 19184)

The hearing was conducted by Deputy Inspector Michael Richter. Also present was Joseph Tauber, Slappy's connsel retained by the New York Civil Rights Congress.

Slappy charges Fondilier struck him in the mouth with his pistol, inocking him to the ground, and Patrolman William Mc Nulty interfered.

Slappy was arrested even after both Fondilier and McNulty interfered.

At the trial Slappy was found guilty of causing a crowd and resisting an officer, and was given a suspended sentence, by Judge Thomas J. Grey of the Washington Heights Court. Fondilier denied striking Slappy, asserting Slappy fell and split his lip.

Again, at the hearing, Fondilier denied striking Slappy and was denied persuading Fo Fondilier not to shoot Slappy. In fact he d denied being around.

This hearing was for the purpose of "determining if sufficient evidence" exests to warrant further departmental action, or a trial. Richter will make a recommendation to Wallander, who has the final responsibility.

WALLANDER DENIES POLICE ARE BRUTAL IN NEGRO ARRESTS

Times New York, N.Y. Thurs. 8-8-46

Assails 'Campaign of Calumny' After 90-Minute Conference With Racial Leaders

BIAS CHARGES DEPLORED

Prisoners in 2 Cases Discussed Attempted to Use Knives, Commissioner Asserts

Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander asserted last night that "there is no justification whatsoever" for charges that New York City policemen are brutal in dealings with Negroes and denounced the "campaign of calumny" that he said certain groups were waging against the department.

The Commissioner's defense of the department's treatment of Negroes was made in a formal statement after a conference with representatives of Negro groups that lasted an hour and a half. Before issuing the statement the Commissioner paid a visit to City Hall. Thurs. 8-8-46

The conference between the Negro representatives and the Police Commissioner was arranged by the Rev. John H. Johnson, Negro chaplain of the Police Department, and was attended by Representative Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Ludlow Werner, editor of The New York Age; Samuel J. Battle of the City Parole Commission; Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Dan W. Dodson of the Mayor's Committee on Unity and Charles A. Collyer of the City-Wide Citizens Committee on Harlem.

Two Specific Cases Discussed

Two specific cases of alleged police brutality to Negroes were discussed. One involved the arrest of Carlton Powell, a musician, of 20 Morningside Avenue, by Detective Edward Clancy of the Seventeenth Squad on June 12, and the other the arrest of Josie Stewart and two other women by Patrolman Carmello Perconti of the Twenty-eighth precinct at 111th Street and Fifth Avenue on July 14.

Commissioner Wallander's statement said these had formed the basis of a petition sent to Mayor O'Dwyer by Dashiell Hammett as president of the Civil Rights Congress, to halt police brutality to Negroes, and had been used by Councilman Benjamin Davis Jr., Negro Communist, and others for attacks on the Police Department.

In both instances, according to the Commissioner, the persons involved attempted to use knives on the arresting officers. 8-8-46

"It is our purpose to make the position of the Police Department clear," the Commissioner's statement continued. "From the facts as they appear there is no justification whatsoever in charging either racial bias or police brutality in connection therewith, and as Police Commissioner I feel it incumbent upon me to denounce these obvious attempts by certain individuals and groups to associate the Police Department of this city in a similar category with deplorable incidents of lynching or racial prejudice that have transpired in other sections of the country."

Noting that both cases are now pending in the criminal courts, the Commissioner said that upon completion of court action a "thorough and complete" inquiry would be made into every phase of police activity in connection with them.

The Commissioner's statement observed that the rules of the Department required officers to be sparing in the use of force and to use no more than is necessary to protect themselves or perform their duty. Times New York N.Y.

"In the cases cited," he added "there is no evidence the officers used more force than necessary to accomplish their sworn duty."

As proof that the police are alert in protecting Negroes from violence, the Commissioner cited who was shot and wounded in the action of two Queens members of Brooklyn hold-up attempts. 8-8-46 two or three instances and in these mote racial peace within the city.

"Since Jan. 1, 1946," the state-charges have been made without Negro prisoner from violence at ment said, "approximately 7,800 investigation into the facts." the hands of a white group after arrests have been effected in the The Commissioner said it was he had been taken into custody Twenty-eighth [West 123d Street] Mayor O'Dwyer's policy and the for an alleged assault on a white and Thirty-second [West 135th Police Department policy to treat woman and the case of a Negro Street] Precincts. Of these alleged all citizens equally, regardless of

POLICE INCITEMENT OF STRIFE CHARGED

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Mon. 7-29-46

Warning that recent instances of police violence against Negro people have risen to such proportions that police can be said to be deliberately attempting to provoke "race riots," Dashiell Hammett, president of Civil Rights Congress of New York today upon Mayor O'Dwyer for immediate action to stop police brutality.

Citing three cases in the last six weeks in which police officers have wantonly beaten and injured Negro men and women, then charged them with crimes to cover themselves up, Mr. Hammett, in the name of his organization, called on the Mayor:

1—To send a impartial observer from his office to all hearings and trials in these cases, and

2—To issue a directive to every police warning against any molestation of Negro people.

7-29-46

Mr. Hammett charged that the beatings referred to **"would not have happened unless the policemen involved understood this type of action to be the policy of the department."**

The Civil Liberties committees of five New York bar associations have also been asked by Mr. Hammett to send observers to these trials.

The three cases, in each of which Civil Rights Congress is aiding in the legal defense of the Negro victim and calling for indictment of the guilty police officer, are:

The case of Carlton Powell, well-known Negro musician, beaten almost to death on June 12 by police to whom he appealed when a taxi-driver refused to take him to his home. On police request, Powell has been indicted on charges of felonious assault against his attackers.

The case of James Slappy, elderly Negro, beaten with a nightstick by a policeman for no apparent reason except the brutality of the officer on July 20, then charged with a series of misdemeanors.

The case of Mrs. Josie Stewart, also beaten by a policeman, on July 13, when she asked him to order a taxi-driver to take her to her Bronx home from Harlem. She has also been charged with felonious assault.

"The pattern," Hammet's open letter said, "is a familiar one in which Negroes are assaulted by police officers who thereupon place charges against their victims in order to protect themselves from the consequences of their crime."

Daily Worker

"The police of course have plenty of apparatus to use for the purpose of obtaining witnesses from among their brother officers or from other sources, to build a case against their victims."

1-29-46

"Certainly no more effective incitement could be devised than such a campaign of police violence and brutality," the letter continued, "nor can anything contribute more to complete distrust by the people of New York in our police department and law enforcement than this violence accompanied by criminal charges against the victims."

Monday

A directive to the Police Department "should once and for all state clearly that police have no right to molest citizens on the streets of New York, and that Negro people have every right to be in territories predominantly white in population, and white persons the same right in areas predominantly Negro; that friendly relations between Negro and white are no grounds for police intervention, but as a matter of fact are to be encouraged as promoting better feelings and understanding between all Americans."

7-29-46

"Unless every possible step is taken by you to prevent continuance of terroristic crimes and discrimnatory molestation, against Negro people by police," Hammet warned the Mayor, "responsibility for the inevitable consequences will rest with a city administration derelict in its duty."

7-30-46

Claims Downtown Police Kicked Him Around

New York Herald Tribune

Sir: This incident occurred on Saturday, July 13th between 1 and 1:30 PM.

After living in New York City for the past forty-one years and a resident of Harlem for the past 24 years, this had to happen! I came out of the Lexington Avenue Subway station at 51st Street and walked up towards 52nd street on Lexington Avenue, keeping to the right side of the Street, about one foot from the store fronts.

Sat. 7-27-46

To my surprise, when I had gone a short distance, I was apprehended by a man asking me why did I strike him; which of course, I contradicted.

He then showed me a badge identifying himself as a police officer and told me that I struck him. He asked for my draft card which I did not have at that time so he took me to a uniformed police officer and gave in his complaint. The officer told him to take me to the 51st Street Police Station.

At the station, he identified himself as a police officer but did not call off a badge number or give his name to the desk officer. I explained what had happened and the desk officer asked my accused if he wanted anything done with me. He said no. The desk officer then took my name, address, age, occupation, illnesses and arrests, if any.

New York N.Y.

It seems to me that it is getting so that a colored American citizen has to have a passport in order to leave his district of Harlem in order to walk in the downtown section of this city or be falsely accused of some misdemeanor.

Beaten by Police, Held for 'Assault'

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Tues. 7-30-46

Three Bronx Negro women, two of whom were beaten and kicked in the 28th Precinct police station, were yesterday held for grand jury action on felonious assault charges. They are Mrs. Josie Stewart, Mrs. Helen Urquhart, and Miss Leitha Griffin.

Patrolman Carmello Perconti, a big six-footer, testified at a Felony Court hearing that the women beat him and a taxi driver with their shoes, and "one of them pulled out a big long knife from her bosom and tried to cut me." They took his billy, he said, and **"I wouldn't be here today if my partner hadn't come up with his gun drawn."**

Mrs. Stewart told the Daily Worker (see July 20 issue) that in the station the morning of the incident Perconti brought in a knife while she was being fingerprinted and tried to force her to say it belonged to her.

A certified doctor's report says that Mrs. Stewart is suffering from contusions around the lower abdomen, thighs, buttocks, legs, arms and chest; through-and-through lacerations of the upper lip necessitating six sutures, and one tooth broken and several loosened.

The women were represented in court by Louis Fleischer of the New York Civil Rights Congress. Fleischer requested the right to file charges of felonious assault, larceny, and attempted rape against Perconti but Magistrate Joseph Glebocki refused him. When Fleischer demanded to know the reason why the complaint was refused and he was told, **"None of your business."**

Mrs. Stewart and her friends were attacked when they tried to get an unidentified taxi driver to take them home to the Bronx.

Half-Blind Negro, 57, 'Assaulted' 2 Cops

Daily Worker New York N.Y.

Judge Thomas Grey of Washington Heights Court yesterday found James Slappy, 57-year-old, half-blind Negro, who was recently beaten by a cop, guilty of "resisting an officer and causing a crowd to gather." The sentence was suspended.

8-3-46

Slappy, an electrical repairman, had gotten into a cab at 110 St. and Eighth Ave., about 3:30 a.m., July 19, when Patrolman Fondelier rushed up with drawn gun, ordered him out of the cab and accused him of burglary.

Slappy was marched into an areaway behind the supposed place of the burglary, where Fondelier's partner, Ptl. William McNulty (15067), assured him Slappy was not the man. Slappy started to protest the officer's actions and was struck in the face and knocked to the ground.

3 times.

In court yesterday, Fondelier testified Slappy became abusive after being told to go home, and he **"pushed me against the chest," lost his balance and fell on his face."**

When asked by Slappy's attorney, Joseph Tauber, of the Civil Rights Congress, what Slappy said to him, Fondelier answered:

8-3-46

"He called me a Gestapo, a Bilbo, a Talmadge, and said I was just like the cops in the South; that I bothered him because he was a colored fellow."

Fondelier denied having taken Slappy to the 28th Precinct station before having his injuries dressed at Sydenham Hospital. Slappy testified he was taken there and booked on several charges including attempted burglary.

3 times

After the cop was whitewashed by Grey, and Slappy was found guilty, Executive Secretary Louis Colman, of the Civil Rights Congress declared:

8-3-46

"This performance is a threat to the people of New York City. It cannot go unchallenged. We intend to appeal the case and fight it until that cop is brought to justice for his vicious attack on a citizen."

Support in the case was pledged by the National Negro Congress, Attorney Hope Stevens, treasurer of the Manhattan Council of the NNC. Mr. Slappy's case was first taken up by the office of Councilman Benjamin Davis.

Attack Victim Backed in Suit

The Afro-American

NEW YORK—Protest against three repeated attempts to force a victim of an attack by a police officer to waive his right to file a suit for damages was registered with Police Commissioner Wallender by the N.Y. Civil Rights Congress.

Sat. 11-9-46

The victim of this illegal pressure is Charles Martin, who, together with Miss Constance Chainey, charged that Patrolman Russell Wolf, white, of the 135th St. Precinct, Harlem, beat them for no reason at all one night, recently.

Louis Colman, executive secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, pointed out that refusal to allow Martin to file a civil damages suit that the police department does not intend to take steps to discipline officers who assault civilians.

ganizations he is inviting to meet with him Monday.

that the actions of the 28th precinct policemen involved were unprovoked and deliberate."

meet at the Harlem Davis cited the beating of Mrs. ing Monday.

Conferees me

the Young Men's Chris- Josie Stewart, 791 Crotona Park branch of the Y

ation, 180 W. 135th St., North, the Bronx, and Mrs. Helen, Mrs. Stewart, a member of the tian Association,

Urquhart, another Bronx resident, AFL Ladies Garment Workers at 8:30 p.m.

Some recent

rival the atrocities com- at 229 W. 123d St., July 14. New York rival t

itler Germany, declared "I have investigated the facts gushed from her face. She charged taken at a conference of 50 organi- that patrolman Carmello Perconti letter to trade unions, of this case," said the Negro began slugging her when she pro- mitted in Hitler

societies and religious or- Councilman, "and I am convinced Davis in a letter

Davis Calls Parley Against Cop Brutality

Daily Worker

7-27-46

Steps to halt police brutality zations that Councilman Benjamin against the Negro people will be J. Davis, Communist leader, is call- fraternal societies

tested because a cab driver refused to take her from Harlem to the Bronx. The cop continued to beat and kick her in the police station, he said.

A deep gash showed in a picture taken by the Daily Worker later. Mrs. Urquhart was beaten and kicked by other cops when she went to the station for information about the case, she reported.

Both women were jailed overnight, and released on $500 bail each the next day on "assault" charges.

The case was brought to Davis. Attorney Louis Fleischer was engaged, and charges were filed against the police.

"The continuation of this type of violence," said Davis' letter, "seriously threatens the safety and well-being of every citizen of the Harlem community—indeed, every minority group citizen throughout the city.

"The time has come to put an end to this feature of our community life. To be able to walk down the street and go wherever one chooses in dignity and without fear of one's life is the right of every American citizen. United action of the entire people of New York is necessary to effectively put an end to police brutality."

Actions, Not Words

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

POLICE COMMISSIONER WALLANDER yesterday denied the charges of brutality and discrimination against the Negro people by the Police Department of New York.

It is to the good that the Police Commissioner feels the seriousness of the charge.

But whether his denials can change the facts is another matter.

It is a fact that Negroes in the company of whites are considered suspect by the police. The experience of City Councilman Davis recently proved it. He was stopped because there were whites in his car. Fri 8-9-46

Beatings of Negro men and women are becoming commonplace and it is too much to believe that all these people are attacking policemen on sight.

No one wishes to make charges where the conditions do not warrant it. But the recent wave of anti-Negro provocations, in Georgia, in Nassau County, and elsewhere, has had its effect in New York. If Wallander's assurances result in a let-up of the discrimination and persecution, that will be a gain. But only experience will be the test of that.

Seamen Demand Negro Rights

Hundreds of Negro and white seamen and their friends called for action to stop police brutality against America's colored citizens at a stirring rally at Renaissance Casino at 150 W. 138 St., Thursday night.

The meeting was called by the Harlem and Waterfront sections of the Communist Party to protest the wave of clubbings in Harlem and throughout the country. Sat. 7-27-46

Three members of the national committee of the Communist Party, and Charles Collins, vice president of Hotel and Club Employes Local 6, AFL, and candidate for state senator on the American Labor Party, Democratic and Republican tickets, spoke.

"The Negro people are bearing the brunt of the offensive of the pro-fascist forces," said Henry Winston, head of the Negro Commission of the Communist Party.

"Thirty - four Negro veterans have already been murdered since they came home . . . most of them in the South," he continued.

"Here in Harlem," added Winston, "28th precinct station at 229 W. 123 St. is the center of police outrages." New York N.Y.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has whitewashed the police killers in Freeport, L. I., and his Man Friday, Grant Reynolds in Harlem, is still trying to sell Dewey to the Negro people, went on Winston.

Winston and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Rose Gordon, the chairman, called for recruits to the Communist Party to help fight against the rising terror. Several seamen responded. Sat. 7-27-46

"Woodward, the Negro veteran, whose eyes were punched out by a South Carolina policeman, won't be able to see for himself. We must see for him," said Miss Flynn, as she called for recruits into the party that is fighting for Woodward and his fellows.

NEGROES ACCEPT WALLANDER WORD

Times New York, N.Y. Sat. 8-10-46

Commissioner Won't Tolerate Race Bias, Will Investigate Charges of Brutality

Representatives of Negro groups who conferred on Wednesday with Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander reported yesterday that they had been assured that no racial bias by police officers would be permitted and that charges of prejudice and brutal treatment on account of race would be promptly and fairly investigated.

Members of the group said also they had been promised that, "though understaffed at present, the police of New York City will perform their duty of suppressing crime, whether the criminal be white or Negro."

The report of the conference was signed by all representatives of Negro groups attending. These were: Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Rev John H. Johnson, Negro chaplain of the Police Department; Representative Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Charles Collier of the City-wide Citizens Committee on Harlem, the Rev. Charles Pierson, Parole Commissioner Samuel J. Battle, Dan W. Dodson of the Mayor's Committee on Unity, and Ludlow W. Werner, editor of The New York Age.

Accepts Wallander's Statement

"Your committee," the group said in a formal report, "accepts at full face value Commissioner Wallander's statement and is wholly convinced of his sincerity and determination to live up not only to the letter but to the spirit of his statement.

"But we recognize that we as citizens of New York City also have a responsibility. We ask no lenience for any man who violates the law, whatever his race. We asked and we were given assurance that any crime perpetrated against any citizen of New York because of his color would be vigorously prosecuted.

"But we must recognize that we should not and must not ask that any criminal, adult, or juvenile, should be given special consideration because he is either white or Negro. For our own welfare, we must take the position at all times that a criminal is a criminal and should be treated as such without respect to race. Sat. 8-10-46

"We urge the citizens of the community to verify any story or charge of police brutality before circulating the rumor. The Police Commissioner assured this committee of his 'desire to be helpful at all times' and to cooperate by taking prompt action in any situation where improper police action was taken.

To Investigate Taxi Drivers

"Mr. Wallander promised that his department would look into the practice of certain taxicab drivers in refusing to drive fares to Harlem. Any cases where this type of discrimination is shown will be dealt with by prompt action against offending taxicab drivers.

"He further assured the committee that it is not the policy of the Police Department of the City of New York to interfere with the free movements of whites or Negroes in any part of the city. If bona fide evidence of improper police action is shown, citizens are requested to submit the facts, including names, dates, places, hours and other circumstances of the occurrence."

Except for its brief appeal for inquiry before circulating stories of police brutality, the report ignored the criticism of unwarranted charges of police brutality toward Negroes that Commissioner Wallander made a main feature of his report of the conference.

Graft and Brutality

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Thurs. 8-29-46

IT IS to the credit of the New York City Council that has voted for Communist Councilman Ben Davis' resolution denouncing the Georgia lynching of two Negroes and their wives, and urges the federal government to apprehend the killers without delay.

Councilman Davis' resolution spotlights the determination of decent Americans not to let this hideous crime sink into oblivion unpunished. His fight shows what it means for democratic liberties to have Communists in official position.

Mayor O'Dwyer's order for a police probe of New York's police ties with graft and vice has already begun to show signs of dying before it gets born.

The corruption of the Police Department in New York community, Negro and white, have in recent months pointed to numerous incidents of brutal police treatment of Negro citizens. It is part of the pattern of chauvinism rising everywhere. The probe, if extended, will give Mayor O'Dwyer a real handle to stop it short in New York.

Councilman Benjamin Davis and other leaders of the brutality. It takes place in other areas as well. That is why we suggest strongly that the investigation be broadened to include that aspect of police activity.

The corruption of the Police Department in New York community, Negro and white, have in recent months

16d 1946 New York

Hollywood Director Sees Real NY Police Brutality

By VAN PARKER

The reign of police brutality, that has haunted Harlem for many days, is now spreading to the downtown Manhattan areas. Despite the pleas by progressive leaders like Councilman Ben Davis, Negroes are still being mistreated by members of the police force. A typical case was dismissed from the Jefferson Market court Wednesday morning by Magistrate Morris Plascowe after three policemen failed to convince the court that Gloria Walker, 19, of 184 Bradley av, was guilty of outrageous charges. To refute the charges came Herbert Kline, free lance Hollywood screen director, who was a witness to the whole affair.

Miss Walker's attorney, John T. Doles, disclosed to PV at the close of the trial that he would weigh the facts and if his client wishes a civil suit will be filed.

The incident occured the night after Christmas. Miss Walker and several other friends, including two white girls, were passing the Barrymore theatre, 47 st, W of Broadway, where the play, "Pymalion" by Bernard Shaw, is currently featured. The girls caught a glimpse of Danny Kaye, radio and screen star, who was entering the theatre to see the play.

They rushed over to get a better look at him when Patrolman Thomas Henry, of the 18th precinct, walked over and told them to "get moving." He then pushed Gloria exclaiming: "Didn't I tell you to get moving?" She answered back and said, "All right, but you don't have to push me all around, do you?" By this time another policeman had arrived. He then grabbed the girl. She tried to resist the arrest because of the way in which the policemen handled her.

Tearing her clothing, the two policemen—estimated as weighing 150 pounds each, finally succeeded in getting her into a police car. Seeing that the girl was being mistreated, Mr. Kline and an associate, Joseph P. Kennedy, walked over to the car and asked why the girl was being pushed around. A third policeman answered, "What's it to you? I'd push her myself."

GIRL JAILED

They took her to 14th precinct where she was booked on a disorderly conduct charge. Despite the fact that the incident occured at 8:30 pm, she was held over night in the Women's House of Correction, 6 av and 9 st, instead of being tried in the night court, which convenes at 9:30.

The case came up the next morning (Thursday) in the Jefferson-Market court, 6 av at 10 st before Magistrate Thomas L. Gray. Miss Walker was represented by her attorney, Conrad Lynn, of the Riddick, Doles and Gill law firm. Lynn asked for the adjournment until Wednesday, January 2.

PV POSTS BAIL

The magistrate set the bail at $500, but after the attorney argued that the policeman's case was very slim bail was reduced to $100. The **People's Voice** came to aid of the young lady, after her mother, Mabel Walker, stated that she was unable to post the bond.

According to the complaint made by the officer, "At 8:30 pm on the 26 of December, Gloria Walker, of 184 Bradley av, obstructed the entrance of 243 W 42 st, annoying the patrons going to and from the Barrymore theatre. She refused to move and when ordered to do so she used vile and obscene language. She resisted arrest and spat in his face. She struck the officer eight times and required three policemen to make the arrest."

Kline, who will leave soon for Hollywood, states that the officer is completely exaggerating the charges. He said, "This is another case of police brutality against an innocent girl, who is of the highest calibre. I, along with many of my colleagues, am tired of seeing these people mistreated because of their race and color. We want a stop put to this type of thing at once."

Ouster of Brutal L. I. Cops Asked

The Nassau County Conference for Human Rights demanded the suspension of the police who beat William J. Dessaure, a Freeport Negro resident, and threatened to kill two Negro eye witnesses, in a letter sent yesterday to the Mayor and police chief of Rockville Center, N. Y.

The letter stated: **"Our committee has examined the facts concerning the incident that occurred on June 8th, in which William J. Dessaure was brutally attacked by certain members of the village police force. In light of the investigation now being conducted by the district attorney, it would seem to us that the only proper thing for you to do under the circumstances is to suspend the policemen involved until such time as a final disposition is made of the occurrence. This is suggested as a measure of protection for the people of Rockville Center.**

"We strongly urge that the foregoing action be taken immediately."

The Nassau National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has joined the Conference for action on the case.

Councilman Davis Hits N.Y. Police Policies

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK.—Charging the police department with pursuing Fascist-like policies against colored citizens, Councilman Ben Davis Jr. urged Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallender, May 7, to investigate and put an end to undemocratic practices by city police.

In a letter to the police commissioner, Councilman Davis cited an incident in which he, himself, was involved while peacefully driving through city streets early that morning. His letter to Commissioner Wallender follows:

"Early Tuesday morning, May 7, 1946, about 1:45 o'clock, I was driving my car on 16th St. between Sixth and Seventh Aves. going East. In the car with me were two persons, both seated in the front seat beside me.

Questioned by Police

These persons were Mr. George Charney, secretary of the Manhattan County Communist Party, and Mr. Robert Campbell, executive secretary of the Communist Party of Harlem. Both are World War II veterans.

"After the car had crossed the intersection of 16th St. and Seventh Ave., a police car drove up and an officer ordered me to pull over to the curb, which I did.

They charged that we looked "suspicious," flashed their lights into the car, and questioned me as if we were criminal suspects.

Actions Not Explained

When we asked why we were considered suspicious, the policemen said they were doing their duty, and refused to reveal the reasons for their actions.

"I cannot account for such unjustifiable treatment of citizens. There was nothing 'suspicious' about the car. It was an ordinary Chevrolet sedan in no wise unusual in appearance.

"I was driving in a lawful manner and at a lawful rate of speed. We were in no wise disorderly nor was our conduct in any way unusual. The policemen made no such claims."

Stopped Because of Color

Councilman Davis points out that, in his judgment, the car was stopped only because it was in a "white section" of the city at an early hour in the morning.

Other cars passed his at about the same time the police stopped his, he pointed out.

Apparently, because their occupants were white, they were not considered "suspicious" nor were they told to "pull over to the curb," the councilman stated.

Intermingling Penalized

The policemen, he reported, were Patrolman Baker, badge number 4137, and Patrolman Selakowsky, badge number 18761—both of the Tenth Precinct.

"Apparently," continued Davis, "there is a policy of the police department to consider colored citizens who are outside the colored ghetto and in the so-called 'white section' of the city as 'suspicious.'

"This policy, therefore, subjects them to accosting by police," he charged.

"Further, colored and white citizens lawfully and peacefully associated together in various sections of the city are subject to charges of 'suspicion,'" he declared.

Says Rights Violated

"I wish to protest this policy and procedure of the police department as an infringement of the democratic rights of colored citizens, and also as an abridgement of the rights of white citizens.

"I charge that it is an attack upon the constitutional rights of citizens to go anywhere in this city they wish, and to associate and fraternize with whom they wish."

Questions Police Intent

Councilman Davis asked whether the police department is trying to bring to New York the imperialist system which obtains in South Africa.

"There," he said, "British authorities require that native citizens secure passes before they go from one section of the territory to another,"

He asked, again, whether New York is to have the Fascist-like system used in Miami, where colored citizens must have special permits if they are found in the 'white section' of the city 'after hours.'"

He warned the police commissioner that "we do not intend to permit such policies in New York City."

Sees Whites Intimidated

Councilman Davis ties up the "insulting, undemocratic treatment" he received with the fact that whites have been arrested for being in Harlem 'after hours.'

"I urge you to clarify this situation," he concluded, "and to stop such policies being practiced by the police department.

"I urge you to make your announcement public, so that all the citizens of New York City will know their rights." he requested.

Police Brutality Increases in N.Y.

NEW YORK—(NNPA).—Police brutality in treatment of Negroes is increasing in New York City, Mrs. Marian Perry of the legal staff of the NAACP charged last Friday at a conference on city-wide action in race relations.

The discussion, sponsored by The City-Wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem, took place at the Ethical Culture Society, 2 West Sixty-fourth Street.

Victim of Cop Cruelty Sues

William J. Dessaure, Negro lay preacher beaten up by four policemen on June 80 has filed a suit for $50,000 damages against Rockville Center, L. I.

The claim, charging "false arrest, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment and personal injuries," was placed with Rockville Center's village clerk by Stanley Faulkner, atorney for Dessaure.

The village has 30 days to recognize or reject the claim. If it is not recognized, attorneys intend to start a New York Supreme Court action.

Dafora and his dance group did exactly what Dafora promised the audience they would do; they

Writer Protests Afro-American Police Brutality

Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—Protesting the increasing amount of police brutal-

Police Terror Stalks Nassau County

The Worker New York, N.Y.

Rockville Centre, Long Island, is two miles from Freeport. On Feb. 5 a Freeport policeman, without cause, shot and killed the Ferguson brothers, Negroes. Four months and three days later, four Rockville Centre policemen brutally beat and arrested William J. Dessaure charged an unidentified policeman with "giving protection" to the gambling house, when he reported to the precinct station. After an hour's questioning he was returned, to find the house empty. Why did the police delay returning? Was the "house" warned? Sun 6-16-46

These are questions the citizens of Nassau County are asking. They want to know why police single out Negroes to kill and beat. They want to know why terror groups are virtually condoned by their elected officials. And why these same officials permit gambling and other forms of vice to flourish.

There has been an attempt to softpedal this latest outrage against a law-abiding citizen. The New York City press has not reported it, perhaps out of deference to Governor Dewey. The **Hempstead Newsday** presented the policemen's side of the story. The people of Nassau County are determined that this time justice will be done.

Ten days later, Dorothy Langston, executive secretary of the Committee for Justice in Freeport, received threatening letters from the Ku Klux Klan. The committee called a mass meeting in Hempstead, but Mayor Herbert Hirschell in effect banned it because he had "confidential information, that persons and patriotic groups will attempt to break up the meeting."

PATTERN OF TERROR

Facts do not lie. They indicate a slow but sure developing pattern of terror and intimidation against Negroes and Jews in Nassau County. On the one hand, officers of the law have committed the acts, and, on the other, elected city county, and state authorities seem to have first hand knowledge of the Ku Klux Klan's activities, but either ignore them or promise investigations that never materialize.

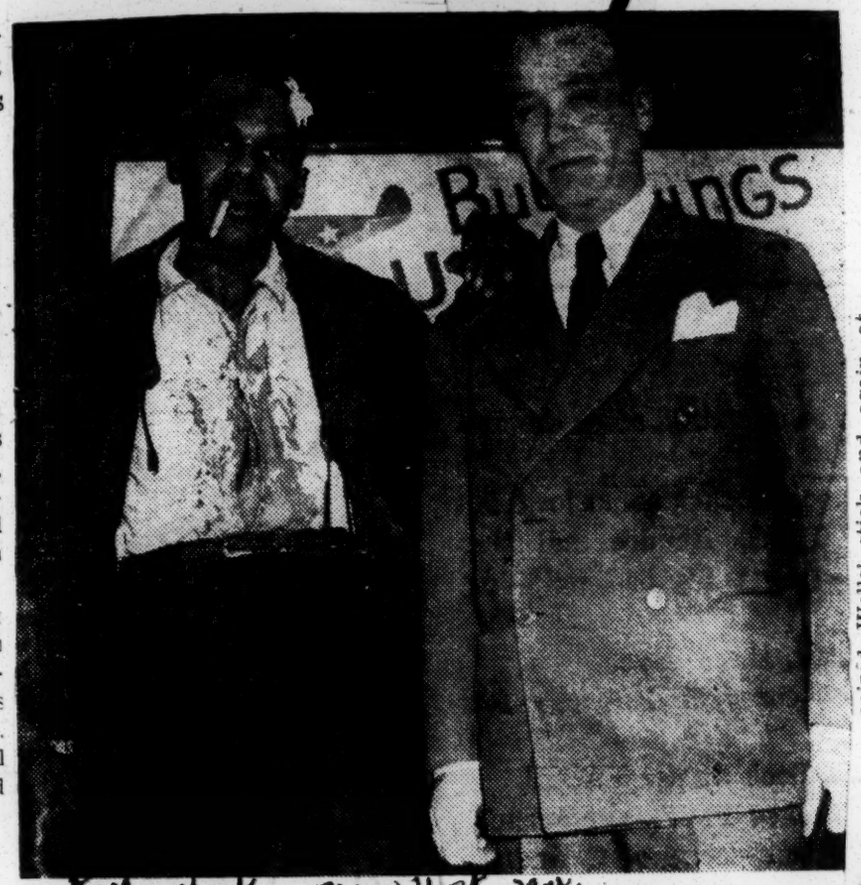
Negro and white residents of Hempstead, Freeuort, and Rockville Centre are incensed over the Dessaure beating, coming on the heels of the Ferguson killings. In Rockville Centre several passerby who were interviewed on Wellington St., near the scene of the beating, immediately singled out "Lummy" (Officer Arthur L'Hommedieu) as being "mean" and "quick with his fists and stick." L'Hommedieu, an ex-pugilist, was one of the four policemen who beat Dessaure.

GAMBLING FLOURISHES

Involved in the beating is the whole question of gambling in Nassau County, which is wide open and a source of constant trouble to the communities. Dessaure had Negro lay preacher and resident of Freeport, and threatened to kill two Negro eye-witnesses. Sun 6-16-46

Two weeks prior to Dessaure's beating, Rockville Centre vandals broke into the B'nai Sholom School, smashed typewriters, splattered mimeograph ink around, and scrawled "Heil Hitler" and "Kill the Jews" in red ink on the building front.

The **Hemstead Newsday** for March 20 stated, "We have it on good authority now, that the renaissance of the sons of bias is about ready for imminent eruption. We don't know when, but it will be in the vicinity of Freeport and directed solely against Negroes."



Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Police Terror Again: William J. Dessaure, 36, of Freeport, N. Y., and his attorney, Stanley Faulkner, of New York City. Dessaure is shown blood-soaked from a savage beating given him on Saturday a.m. June 8, by Rockville Centre, N. Y. police. Tues 6-18-46

Negro, Beaten By L. I. Cops, Freed on Bail

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

Special to the Daily Worker

ROCKVILLE CENTER, N. Y. June 10.—William J. Dessaure, 36, Negro lay preacher of 90 Liberty Ave., Freeport, was released on $2,000 bail this morning after his arrest and beating at the hands of the Mineola police. Tues. 6-11-46

The beating took place shortly after midnight on Saturday, June 8. Two Rockville Center policemen, Arthur L'Honmedieu and Louis M. Wells slugged Dessaure and two others watched, it was reported.

This community is two miles from Freeport, scene of the brutal slaying of the two Negro Ferguson brothers by a cop. Two weeks ago the Jewish synagogue here, B'Nai Sholom, was descrated. 6-11-46

According to witnesses, Dessaure went to Rockville's police headquarters on Friday night, June 7, to register a complaint against a gambling game at Wellington Place. He told police that a police sergeant was casually observing the game but was taking no action against it. He was then detained at the police station for an hour and a half, after which he was placed in a police car going to investigate the complaint. 6-11-46

Upon arriving at the gambling address, the police found the place dark and empty. They then started to beat Dessaure, calling him insulting names and accusing him of taking them out on a wild goose chase in the middle of the night.

A witness to the beating testified the police were trying to force Dessaure to admit he hit them. Dessaure refused. He was threatened with death unless he admitted it, the witness said. The witness also testified that one of the onlooking policemen shouted "Let me have the black ———. I want to kill him," but was restrained by the other onlooker. 6-11-46

The witness also stated that a Negro man put his head out of his window while the beating was taking place and begged for mercy, only to see guns trained on him and get an invitation to come down.

After the beating, the police picked Dessaure up, threw him on the floor of the police car and took him to jail where they booked him for second degree assault. They claimed Dessaure assaulted them with their own night sticks when he came to the station. Daily Worker

The Rev. Theodore C. Bibilin and Henry Doliner, president and executive-secretary respectively of the Nassau Conference for Human Rights, yesterday accused the cops of brutal assault. This organization is an outgrowth of the original Freeport committee seeking justice in the Ferguson case.

Stanley Faulkner, attorney for the committee, set Dessaure's bail.

Cop Who Beat Dessaure Admits His Sworn Statement Was Lie

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Tues 6-25-46

By John Hudson Jones

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, June 24.—Defense counsel Stanley Faulkner repeatedly ripped holes in the testimony of four police officers who charge William J. Dessaulting them, and challenged the prosecution to meet the issue of gambling in Nassau County.

Cross-examining the officers in complaint charged Dessaure, a another of the four the Rockville Center Police Court, Negro, with second-degree assault beat Dessaure, conflicFaulkner extracted evidence show- with a night stick. Under cross- again. Garvey saiing that either the police involved examination Friday he denied that Dessaure attacked in Dessaure's brutal beating a r e Dessaure used a stick. Gervey "escorted" higuilty of wholesale perjury, or the Today, when confronted by his police car. L'Hommecitizens of that town and of Nas- sworn statement in the complaint, the other two officesau County have entrusted their he said that it was not true. He Patrolmen Robert Hsafety to dishonest bunglers. signed the complaint in the pres- Wells, had to force

Acting-Sergeant Joseph Garvey, ence of Asst. Dist. Atty. David the car, after he who is under routine suspension Holman, a police judge, and one them. because of a cross compalint filed Detective Harding. Tues 6

The officers also against him by Dessaure, again in the station h

The questions worrying the prosecution are: **"Who allows the gambling?" "Are the Rockville Center police competent?" "Why, if so, did Assistant District Attorney Holman change Garvey's statements?"**

No Open Season on Harlem

By Benjamin J. Davis

PM
New York, N. Y.
12-15-46

INSTEAD OF concentrating upon finding the killers of Scottoriggio, the city authorities, at the behest of the howling reactionary press, are turning this case into an "open season" upon labor and progressives, and, in particular, upon the people of Harlem.

The lead is being taken by Police Commissioner Wallander who has just proclaimed a "get tough" policy for the policemen in Harlem. It seems to be a common affliction of federal, state and city officials that they don't know whom to get tough with.



Mayor O'Dwyer, unfortunately, is shedding little light on the situation, but is adding considerable heat. His statement that "1,000 policemen" will be thrown into the Scottoriggo case can be understood [illegible] determination to find the killer.

But, one must ask, is this the only crime taking place against citizens upon which the just indignation of the city authorities must be visited? What about these wealthy interests responsible for the death of more than 32 citizens in the Amsterdam tenement disaster—or about the landlords in slum areas whose houses burn so many people at the stake, so to speak?

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IN ANY EVENT, doesn't the Mayor realize how the reactionary are trying to turn the Scottoriggio case and the police shakeup into an intensified wave of police terror against labor and progressives, against the Negro people of Harlem, as well as against Puerto Ricans and other minority groups? What good will this do our city?

The perversion of the Scottoriggio case by certain authorities and pro-fascist newspapers in the city had its origin in the original statement of Gov. Dewey that this was the work of "left-wing" forces. It was the intention of Dewey to destroy all his political opposition with a use of the frameup, if not with outright violence as when his Harlem meeting last Nov. 5, provoked the unprecedented charge of mounted cops into a tumult of defenseless women, men and children who opposed his reelection.

Why, indeed must the administration of this city move to the finger snapping of Dewey, pulling his political chestnuts out of the fire? The Mayor got his political fingers burnt when early this year he yielded to Gov. Dewey who shortchanged the city in finances for schools and social services. Even one such yielding is too often.

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WE NOW HAVE a police shake-up. From the way, matters have been developing in the police department, such a shake-up could bring some good. But how much shaking is going to be done? Is, for example, police brutality against Negroes going to be looked into and ended? What about the outrageous police beatings of Carleton Powell, of James Slappy, of Mrs. Josie Stewart of six other notorious cases of police brutality against Negroes? All of these cases were presented to Commissioner Wallander four months ago by my office, the Communist Party, the Civil Rights Congress and countless other labor and progressive groups. 12-16-46

The Commissioner was told then that something was rotten in Denmark. But he replied with a baseless charge that this writer was carrying on a "campaign of calumny" against the police department. It's too bad the Commissioner wasn't carrying on a so-called "campaign of calumny" at that time. If then he had investigated and taken stern action against police brutality, the department would probably not have come to its present pass.

In carrying on this shakeup, it should be recognized that where there is corruption and malfeasance in the police department, it goes hand in hand with police brutality and reaction, with police winking at the systematic gangsterism against Negroes as in Greenwich Village.

One thing that needs to be shaken out of the department are the Christian Fronters the anti-Semitic Patrolman Drews, the policemen who shoot Negroes and brutalize them simply because they are Negroes. Another thing that needs to shaken out is the racial discrimination against Negro policemen—as for example, the fact that not a single police precinct even in a Negro neighborhood has a Negro captain.

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THE NEWSPAPERS are having a field day in distorting the recent statement of Dr. Channing Tobias who called attention to conditions in Harlem. We are therefore about to witness the usual cycle of "crime wave" slanders against Harlem. The people of Harlem are law-abiding. They have no use for criminals or crime. They will resent and resist in an organized, lawful and peaceful manner every effort to stigmatize them and their community for the monstrous Jim-crow condition in which they are compelled tt live.

Negroes did not create the slums. They do not deny themselves jobs. They do not overcharge themselves rents. They do not discriminate against their veteran sons, denying them homes and jobs at union wages and working conditions. They do not overcharge themselves for rotten foods at monopoly prices. They do not deny themselves entry at tax-supported schools. They do not make the restrictive convenants which deny them access to apartments and homes outside of Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant. These are the root causes of conditions which stifle Negro youth, which tend to drive them to despondency, although their resistance to this tendency is remarkable.

NOR ARE THE Communists, or the labor-progressive allies of the Negro responsible for these conditions. On the contrary, it is the labor and progressive supporteds of the Negro people—of whom the Communists are a part—who fight day-to-day besides the Negro peopel to end these conditions.

PM
New York, N.Y.

This new "open season" which is developing against Harlem has all the earmarks of blackmail, against the people of Harlem, against their support of such a fighting people's anti-Bilbo champion as Marcantonio.

The people of Harlem do not have weak nerves. Blackmail will not work. They will not be frightened or intimidated out of the growing movement, with their white allies, for decent housing and jobs—for the end of Jim-crow in New York. The offensive of the people of Harlem, supported by labor and progressives—firmly rooted in Negro and white unity—is to make New York a better place to live in. It has just begun.

Mon. 12-16-46



William J. Dessaure and his attorney, Stanley Faulkner, taken last June. Dessaure is shown blood-soaked from beating given him by Rockville Center police.

All-White Juries Face First Test in North

Daily Worker New York, N. Y.
Fri. 12-27-46

A northern Scottsboro case, testing whether Negroes may be excluded from juries, this side of the Mason-Dixon Line, may arise out of the forthcoming trial of William J. Dessaure in Rockville Centre, L. I., defense counsel Stanley Faulkner said yesterday.

On June 8, Dessaure, a lay preacher of Freeport, walked into the Rockville Centre police station to report a gambling house and the presence of a police officer there. He was severely beaten and arrested for "assaulting" the arresting officers.

Big time gamblers, driven from New York during the LaGuardia administration, had set up shop in Republican Nassau. Repeated scandals have riddled the police and political machines of the country.

CHALLENGED INDICTMENT

Faulkner filed a motion in September challenging the indictment on the ground that the jury had no Negro members and that, in fact, there is no record of a Negro ever serving on a Nassau County grand jury. The 1940 census showed 3.3 percent of the county was Negro. The proportion is greater now.

Acting County Judge L. Barron Hill, after sitting on the motion through the election campaign (he was elected to the New York Supreme Court on the GOP ticket), this week denied the motion. He found that exclusion of Negroes in the South, barred since the Scottsboro decisions, was intentional, while in Nassau county it was not.

"Intentional or no, the net result is the same," Faulkner declared, "since Negroes were not called for service."

"If William Dessaure is convicted, I will appeal, if necessary, all the way to the Supreme Court."

16d 1946

New York

An Answer to Wallander --End N.Y. Police Brutality

The Worker

By Benjamin Davis, Jr.

Communist Councilman, Borough of Manhattan

WHEN I returned from my vacation last Saturday, I found that Police Commissioner Wallander, and the pro-fascist press had prepared a hot August welcome-home for me. Press clippings of charges, choice invectives and statements, practically excommunicating me from human society, were piled high on my desk. I can hardly consider myself worthy of such a trumpety reception. But who am I to place my judgment against that of the infallible Police Commissioner.



It seems that while I was away, the Commissioner held an "off-the-record" conference with a group of prominent Negroes to discuss police brutality against Negro citizens in New York. According to reports, the upshot of the conference—at least in the eyes of the Commissioner—was a violent attack against me personally and against the party of which I have the honor to be a member—the Communist Party. Sunday

★

IT SHOULD BE SAID here that all of these were slanders. And if it will make the Police Commissioner rest any easier, one day in the not too distant future the Communist Party will be so large that public officials will think twice before they misrepresent it. That has happened in some countries, and, in this instance, I do not mean the Soviet Union.

I, of course, was not present at the conference and so the Commissioner's blast against me, and against representatives of some other organizations, was issued without giving any of us a hearing. That scarcely seems the sort of example of fair play for the Commissioner to set. As for the great "free press" of New York, this is typical of its so-callad sense of freedom.

In any event, while some of the Commissioner's policemen are notoriously too quick with their night-stick assaults upon Negroes, the Commissioner is equally adept at verbal assaults upon them. One can understand more clearly where the facility for quick, itchy fingers within the department comes from.

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THE COMMISSIONER'S procedure is not at all according to Hoyle. It has been my custom, and that of my party, that before any criticisms were publicly leveled against the Police Department or particular policemen to first consult and secure the statement of the Police Department. As a matter of fact, we usually started with the local precinct and worked our way up to the Commissioner's exalted attention.

We were informed that this was the rule of the Police Department and we adhered to it. But the Commissioner needs to observe this rule himself. Perhaps if he first did a little consulting he wouldn't sperad his loose condemnations upon the record, with such little regard for the facts.

The Commissioner charged, according to the **New York Times,** that the Communist Party, I and some unnamed others were carrying on a "campaign of calumny" against the Police Department. I know not of "unnamed others." But, as for the Communist Party and myself, the Commissioner is talking through his hat, either wilfully or because of wilful sloppiness. New York, N.Y.

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WHAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY and I and numerous police victims have charged—and will continue to charge until police brutality is ended—is that police brutality against Negro men and women in New York has become so outrageous that unless it is stopped by the police authorities, this city faces a first-class tradegy. Proof of this is evident in the fact that the Police Commissioner felt it necessary to hold a conference with Negro community spokesmen to discuss this situation. This is not to mention life itself, that is, the horrible, sometimes gory, cases of unjustifiable assaults upon Negro citizens by policemen. 8-18-46

In trying to create the impression that policemen in New York are all virtuous angels the Commissioner is, in fact, talking out of both sides of his mouth. I myself experienced the aggressiveness of the police, when I was stopped as being "suspicious" simply because I was in the so-called white section of the city late at night.

After several weeks of hemming and hawing, the Commissioner sent me a personal apology for the department and then finally a statement of policy which denied regarding Negroes as "suspicious" because they were outside of the Negro community late at night. Although a personal apology for an offense directed against the whole Negro people is not acceptable and was refused by me, it showed that even the Commissioner realizes that policemen can make mistakes.

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HAS THE COMMISSIONER forgotten in August the apology he made in June? In August, the Police Department is perfect. In June, the Commissioner had to apologize for them and issue a statement of clarification of the department's policy toward Negroes.

It is also a matter of record that just recently an inquiry had to be launched into the police which disclosed that one cop, George Rabidoux, was actually operating as part of a criminal gang. Sunday

If one would believe the Commissioner's story, as it was printed in last Thursday's papers, Negroes—especially Negro women—are eagerly offering their heads and bodies to the police for pummeling. Further, if the police refuse to do so, the Negro promptly pulls a knife and threatens the policeman unless he does so. Whereupon the policeman, under threat of his life is compelled to assault the Negro and in the case of women knock them down and kick them.

Perhaps that version is okay pap for morons. But the people of New York are no morons. The Commissioner will have to get something better. 8-18-46

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WAS THAT THE CASE when 15-year-old Wilbur Cohen, Negro lad, was shot down in Harlem in cold blood by police last October? Was that the case when Carleton Powell, the Negro musician, was beaten senseless in the police headquarters? Was that the case when the police beat Mrs. Josie Stewart? Was that the case when Miss Constance Chainey and Charles Martin were assaulted? Was that the case when Guy Brewer, Democratic leader, was permanently maimed by a cop who knocked him down and kicked him in the nose? These are only a few cases.

The Commissioner took strong exception to a comparison between the Georgia lynchers and the treatment of Negroes by police in New York. The comparison is his, not mine. But, while on the subject, the Commissioner should be reminded that a lynching was narrowly averted in Queens recently. Perhaps it is felt that medals should be given to the mob of would-be lynchers for not carrying through the lynchings. But what the people would like to know, and have a right to know, is why the identity of this lynch-minded mob was not revealed and why they were not arrested and prosecuted for inciting a riot and for an attempted murder. What about it, Mr. Police Commissioner?

Besides, it is cold comfort to a bleeding Negro who has been unjustifiably beaten almost to death by a policeman, to be told that "you should be happy, for you are living under much better conditions here than in Georgia."

AN ANSWER TO WALLANDER—II

We Can Stop Police Brutality

Daily Worker

By Benjamin J. Davis, Jr. 8/19/46

New York, N.Y.

(Continued from Sunday's Worker)

and individuals. 8/19/46 Mon.

Soviet-baiting, the monopoly attacks on living standards according to the press, entirely "off-the-record."

a brazen admission, the-record."

Bilbo that he is a However, it is clear as to just

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rticular and for all complacency—which could become perhaps the present crisis could

fatal to the struggle. have been avoided.

It would be Secondly, the Commissioner tried to use the presence of the delegation to divide the various Negro leaders and organizations of the community and play one

This issue is, of course, not new. tacks against the Negro people, the

of the people, by U. S. Senator Bilbo

Police brutality against Negroes— Klansman coupled with defy to the government and

The fact that a conference took accompanied by unpunished fascist whole of American democracy,

place last Wednesday, August 7, be- gang attacks against the Jewish Georgia lynchings, the

tween a group of prominent Negro people—have been increasing in New York for the last six months.

citizens and Commissioner Wallan- The Communist Party, not to men-

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Rights Congress, The growth of police brutality is directly connected with the reactionary atmosphere in the country, the imperialist drive of the Truman administration toward war and



naive to think that these developments would not affect New York City.

WHITEWASHED CASE

It is unfortunate, for example, that the delegation's statement so fully accepted the promise of the Commissioner to "take prompt action in any situation where improper police action was taken." For

fev other militant organizations

apparently no concrete guarantees whatever were secured from the Commissioner.

In fact, the delegation's statement in some respects falls into the trap obviously laid by the Commissioner.

OLD PROMISES

Such promises have been made before. The test of the Police Department's intention to seriously deal with police brutality against Negroes is what the Commissioner does now about removing, reprimanding and prosecuting the police guilty of criminal and improper action in cases now pending before him.

No one can rely on mere words by the Commissioner when these cases were whitewashed. Nor can one rely upon mere words when it i- known that policemen are still interfering with whites in so-called Negro sections of the city, and Negroes in so-called white sections of the city, when terror by organized gangs against Negroes in Greenwich Village in particular, meet with police indifference.

It is quite clear that many more delegations have got to call on Commissoner Wallander, especially since his last red-baiting statement and his whitewash of numerous cases will serve to encourage more police brutality. A letter and postcard campaign has to be begun

Particularly should trade unions visit the Commissioner and send in their protests. For it is against the workers—Negroes in the first place, and whites—that these brutalities are taking place. These workers, many of them victims of police brutality, can fully expose the fantastic charge of the Commissioner that Negro women have to be knocked down and kicked by police on the trumped-up pretext that they're threatening the police department with non-existent "butcher knives."

The charge of the Commissioner that I, and the Communist Party are carrying on a "campaign of calumny against the Police Department, when examined as its real meaning is a back-handed compliment. It means that the Communists are among the most resolute fighters for civil rights and equality for all citizens, and are determined, with labor and many hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers of every race, creed and color, to end Jimcrow in New York—to keep Bilboism, Talmadgism and Rankinism out of New York.

Communists will continue with renewed vigor their fight to expose and end all forms of fascist expression in New York City and will seek to mobilize the broadest unity of the labor movement and the people to the end that no whitewash will cover these present attacks upon democratic liberties. Ten years ago police brutality which started against the Negro people here carried over against trade unions, and other progressive organizatons. It will do the same now unless nipped in the bud.

This Is the issue from which there must be no diversion by red-baiting or any other type of confusing tactics. Thet ime to stop it is now, Mr. Commissioner, before our city faces a tragedy which could have been avoided, by prompt curbing of police brutality and by protection of the civil liberties of Negroes as well as other citizens in full equality.

Meanwhile, it would seem that the Negro people, the trade unions and progressives of every race, creed and color should insist upon the following minimum program to Commissioner Wallander and to Mayor O'Dwyer: 8/11/46

(1) Removal and prosecution of police guilty of brutality. No whitewash. Compensation for victims.

(2) Prosecution of would be lynch mob in Queens July 19.

(3) Demanding from Gov. Dewey the list of all the Klansmen connected with the nominally dissolved Klan in this state, making their names public and prosecuting them.

(4) Firm police action against fascist gangs which terrorize attack Negroes in so-called white sections of the city. The jailing and prosecuting of all fascist annti-Negro and anti-Semitic gangs.

(5) The elimination of discrimination in the Police Department. The appointment of Negro precinct captains, especially in Negro communities.

(6) The ending of anti-Negro instructions to policemen and the guarantee of equal and free association of all citizens in all parts of the city at all times. Full protection of civil and democratic liberties of the Negro people and all citizens irrespective of race, color or religion.

(7) Passage of the Davis Bill No. 25 now in the City Affairs Committee for an effective interracial unity committee in New York.

3 Women, Beaten By Cops, Found Guilty

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 12-19-46

By John Hudson Jones

Three Negro women, two of whom were beaten by Harlem police, were found guilty of assault in special Sessions yesterday and held for sentencing on Dec. 30. The women, Mrs. Josie Stewart. Mrs. Helen Urquhart and Alethia Griffin, were arrested after an altercation with a taxi driver who refused to take them to the Bronx from 111 St. and Fifth Ave., about 2 a.m., July 14.

The day after the incident the Daily Worker interviewed Mrs. Stewart, a dress trimmer, in her home at 701 Crotona Park North. Her upper lip had been severely cut by the billy of Patrolman Carmello Perconti, and she declared that in the 28th Precinct station house, Perconti had further kicked and beaten her, and had removed $30 from her wallet.

'ASSAULT WITH SHOES'

Perconti, a huge man, testified that on his arrival at the scene the three women immediately set upon him with their shoes, and that Mrs. Stewart pulled a knife from her bosom to cut him.

He claimed he was practically helpless, and that, had it not been for his partner, the women would have done him in.

Attorney Louis Fleischer, retained by the New York Civil Rights Congress to defend the women, questioned surprise witness Joseph Colon, a building superintendent who said he had seen the incident but that he couldn't identify the women because "all colored look alike to me." When Fleischer pressed him as to how he became a witness, he said he "knew" officers Perconti and Cunningham, and that "next day after the fight I saw them and agreed to testify if they wanted me to."

KICKED IN CELL

Miss Griffin and Mrs. Urquhart were arrested when they appeared at the 28th Precinct to see Mrs. Stewart. 12-19-46

Mrs. Griffin charged that a cop kicked her on the leg as she was being placed in a cell, and that a matron threatened to put soap in her mouth and tie her to the cell bars when she began crying.

A defense motion for dismissal was denied by Judge John V. Flood, who immediately found the three women guilty of the first count of the indictment, which was simple assault. Mrs. Stewart was also found guilty of possession of a knife.

ONE OF MANY

This incident was one of a series of eight cases involving police brutality against Negroes this summer. In only one, that of James Slappy, a half-blind man who also received a deep lip cut, was there a departmental hearing, but the cop was never tried. The eight cases were documented by the office of Councilman Benjamin J. Davis and presented to the police department by a delegation of leading citizens.

Present at that meeting was recently-ousted Inspector John J. DeMartino, who denied that brutality against Negroes was a department policy. The officials promised that steps would be taken to protect Negroes and that the police would be instructed in race relations. 12-19-46

When informed of today's verdict against the women, Councilman Davis declared: "It was an outrageous miscarriage of justice, and is a part of the whole get-tough-with-Harlem policy. The people of this community must get together and fight back or else this is just the beginning."

16d 1946 New York

Cop Brutality? Ask Harlem

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

A random poll conducted by the Daily Worker yesterday at the corner of 125th St. and Seventh Ave. revealed that 57 out of 100 Negro men and women believe New York police are brutal. Sat 8-10-46

This amounted to 66 percent, since 14 were non-residents and could not give an opinion.

The poll was taken in answer to Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander's charge that the efforts of Negro and civic organizations in demanding justice for Carlton Powell, Negro musician, and Josie Stewart and her two women companions, who were assaulted by the police, amounted to a "campaign of calumny" against the police department.

"There is no justification for these attempts to stigmatize the members of this department," Wallander had said. "We feel that 95 percent of our colored population will agree." Sat 8-10-46

Fifty-seven out of 100 Negroes, however, decidedly did not agree; only 13 felt there was some justice in the commissioner's view; while 16 had no opinion of the whitewash whatsoever, and the other 14 felt disqualified because they were non-residents of New York.

"The policeman in Harlem thinks his night-stick is the law," Harold Simmons, 576 E. 165th St., said, voicing the sentiment revealed in the statements of many others. **"People that have never been in jail don't know. I used to live near the police station, and it sounded like a Hitler concentration camp all the time, the way they treated Negroes."** Sat. 8-10-46

Mrs. J. Mahoney, 2026 Seventh Ave., a quiet, elderly woman, took several moments to reflect. **"There are cases,"** she said finally, **where they don't treat Negroes so good—** particularly the women. They make no attempt to d discriminate between a woman and a man, and some thing should be done about that--not that I'm saying the police are justified in beating up anybody--I don't mean that. But they ought to remember a woman isn't like a man".

According to Otis C. Keen Seventh Ave., Harlem is comparatively safe. "But you get up in the Bronx or out on Long Island and the rest of the surburbs," he said, and "they catch you out of Harlem, it's lucky if you g get off with your life, like those Ferguson brothers."

"The question was complica cated," Arthur Jenkins, 53, Manhattan Ave., said. "The Negro is always more discrim inated against than other minority groups. But if the question was one of whether the police properly policed their beats in Harlem, the answer is positively no." He went on to describe the fail re of the police to apprehend culprits who damaged Negro property or rob Negro stores.

Mrs. E. Bridges, 62 E. 1 12Oth St., was certain that the commissioner was right, "for the police give Negroes adequate protection when protection is needed."

Mr. Best then went on to describe how he had been standing at 92nd St. and West End Ave., at 3:30 p.m. waiting for his wife and child, who'd gone into the doctor's office, when two plainsclothmen accosted him. They had demended his identification, which he refused to give unless taken to the police station. When his wife arrived a few minutes later, they forced him to drive around to the 100th St. police station. He was released later, when they discovered who he was.

Harlem Leaders Defend OK Police Force

Chicago, Ill.

Rep. Adam Powell Heads Delegation

Sat. 8-17-46

NEW YORK — After a conference with Police Commissioner Arthur Wallander at his headquarters last week a group of Harlem representatives led by Congressman Adam Powell issued a statement that they were satisfied no racial bias by police officers would be permitted and that charges of brutality and prejudice would be promptly investigated.

Attacking attempts to associate the Police Department activities in New York with those of cops in Georgia and other parts of the South, the Commissioner said two cases of brutality against Negroes are being investigated thoroughly by his depa tment. Attending the conference were the Rev. John H. Johnson, Ludlow Werner, Samuel J. Battles, Walter White, Dan W. Dodson, Charles A. Collyer, and the Rev. Charles Pierson.

"It is our desire," Wallander asserted," to assure the decent and law-abiding citizens of the colored race that there is no justification for these attempts to stigmatize the members of this department. We feel confident that 95 per cent of our colored population will agree."

It was the Mayor's policy, as well as that of his department, he added, to treat all citizens equally, regardless of color and to do what they can to promote racial peace within the city.

Accept At Face Value

Signed by all members of the delegation the report said that "the Committee accepts at full face value Commissioner Wallander's statement and is wholly convinced of his sincerity and determination to live up not only to the letter but to the spirit of his statement."

"But we recognize that we as citizens of New York City also have a responsibility. We ask no lenience for any man who violates the law, whatever his race. We asked and we were given assurance that any crime perpetrated against any citizen of New York because of his color would be vigorously prosecuted. But we must recognize that we should not and must not ask that any criminal, adult, or juvenile, should be given special consideration because he is either white or Negro."

To Prosecute Cab Violations

The Commissioner also promised to investigate any instance of downtown cab drivers refusing to drive fares to Harlem and any found guilty of such practices would be dealt with promptly by the Police Department. In his conference with the Committee the Commissioner assured them that it was not the policy to hamper the actions of citizens as they had a right to travel any where within the city, regardless of color, without police interference.

Cops Intimidate Village Residents

Daily Worker
By John Hudson Jones

Some of the people visited so far have been Winifred Mason, creative jeweler; Sandella Montague; Charles Sebree, artist and stage director; Elsie Marie Miller; Paul A. Lobel, jeweler, and James Brown. 8-31-46

In letters to O'Dwyer and Wallander, Aug. 16, these people cited several cases of attacks on themselves and friends. New York N.Y.

"These gangs," said one letter, "rove the Village and operate openly. We feel that it would not be difficult for the Police Department to find out why they are. The tension and ill feeling is growing. Commissioner stand? Sat.

"As law-abiding citizens, we want to avoid a pitched battle or riot. We make this appeal to you because we refuse to be terrorized further. We have no intention of submitting to further insults and threats. We will not be driven from our homes and employment in the Village, nor will we be intimidated into restricting our movements."

The police reply was to ask these citizens questions that can only be intimidating.

What do the police want? The gang or the citizens' silence? 8-31-46

The letters were sent to the Commissioner's office. Are the precinct officers carrying out the Commissioner's orders? Where does the

Policemen from the 6th and 8th precincts are visiting Greenwich Village residents who wrote to Commissioner Wallander and Mayor O'Dwyer demanding protection against a gang of hoodlums that has been attacking and intimidating Negroes.

On these visits the officers ask the people what organizations they belong to; where they work; whether they attended the recent Civil Rights Congress protest meeting at Greenwich House, and why they wrote the letters.

Several of the people who have been visited feel the police are intimidating them; that, instead of asking them about their organizational affiliations, they should be looking for the mobsters that have beaten at least six Negro men and women and insulted and threatened at least 30 men, including their white friends.

Civil Rights Unit Demands Action Against Hoodlums

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—A Civil Rights Committee delegation of Coney Island, led by Andrew Wray, veteran, met with Police Commissioner Wallender on last Friday to urge protection and the necessary precaution to prevent further gang attacks upon minority groups in that area.

Police Captain Nelson of the 60th precinct, which includes Coney Island, who was also present at the meeting, was accused by the delegation of negligence and laxity in his duties. His removal from the precinct was demanded by the group.

Serious Situation

Mrs. Helen Wegner, secretary of the committee, pointed out that the danger of unrest in the neighborhood and the neglect of the police to take action could result in a serious situation.

"Affidavits naming the date, place, time and the names of the people involved in the attacks are in the hands of the police, who are responsible for the protection of the people, and we intended to see that this protection is provided," she said.

The delegation demanded that more police be assigned to the Coney Island area, that these include colored patrolmen, and that active prosecution of the hoodlums start at once.

Force to Get 2000 Patrolmen

Commissioner Wallender told the delegation that he was aware of the attacks. He laid the blame to the manpower shortage in the police department, and said that Mayor O'Dyer's recent order assigning 2,000 new patrolmen to the force would ease the present difficulties.

Jack Sartisky, New York Civil Rights Congress, told the AFRO that he didn't believe the assignment of new patrolmen to Coney Island would help the situation. He said he felt it more important to move Captain Nelson from the precinct.

Sartisky also explained that there were over 500 colored people in the vicinity, and that since the New York City police force only has about 255 colored patrolmen out of a total of 17,000, he doubted the commission would assign any colored officers there.

GREENWICH HOUSE CHARGES TRICKERY

Times Newyork N.Y.

Says Group That Met There to Assail Police Misrepresented Purpose of Gathering

Sat. 8-17-46

Greenwich House charged yesterday that the Civil Rights Congress had "tricked" an unwary staff member into granting it permission to use the facilities at 2 Barrow Street for a meeting Aug. 8 protesting alleged police brutality to Negroes by misrepresenting the true purpose of the gathering.

The meeting followed a vigorous denial by Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander the previous day, issued after a conference with representative Negro leaders, that there was "any justification whatsoever" for charges that New York policemen had dealt harshly with Negroes.

The police head at the same time had denounced the "campaign of calumny" that he said certain groups were waging against the department.

Explaining the circumstances attending the use of Greenwich House for the meeting, which he termed "disgraceful," J. G. L. Molloy, chairman of the board of directors of the long-established neighborhood civic and welfare organization, asserted that Greenwich House would not "knowingly" lend its name and facilities "to any Communist group." The purpose of the meeting was not "truthfully" stated nor did the staff member suspect the "true nature of the group," Mr. Molloy declared.

An advertisement appearing in The Daily Worker, Communist organ, said the meeting was called "to protest police brutality in New York and Georgia murders" and to organize a Greenwich Village chapter of the Civil Rights Congress.

Baldwin Not Among Speakers

Listed as one of the speakers was Representative Joseph Clark Baldwin. He not only did not appear but the next day used strong terms in characterizing those who sought to draw an analogy between the activities of the New York police and lynchings in Georgia. *Sat. 8-17-46*

In his statement, which was sent to Commissioner Wallander and those at the conference, Mr. Molloy said:

"On Aug. 8 the newspapers ran a story about the disgraceful meeting of the Village Chapter of the Civil Rights Congress which unfortunately took place at Greenwich House.

"I wish to make it very clear that although Greenwich House was tricked it played an innocent role in this unfortunate incident. These are the circumstances under which permission was given to the Civil Rights Congress to hold its meeting there, for Greenwich House would not knowingly have lent its name and facilities to any Communist group or indeed to any group which is opposed to our democratic way of life.

"During the absence of Greenwich House director (Mrs. Dexter P. Cooper), a member of the Greenwich House staff gave permission to the Congress to meet at the House.

"The staff member did not suspect that the purpose of the meeting was not truthfully stated nor did he suspect the true nature of the group. He was approached and told that a Village group wanted the use of one of the rooms in Greenwich House in order to hold a meeting and to discuss the situation that faces Negroes in Greenwich Village.

Aid to Community Stressed

"Our employe of course felt that we would serve the community by allowing such a discussion to take place at the House, as we are interested in doing all that we possibly can to promote harmonious race relations in our area.

"I have written to Police Commissioner Wallander and to the other persons who were attacked at this meeting explaining the situation.

"Greenwich House aims to be a useful and constructive social force in our city. It helps to train the youths of the Greenwich Village area in the ways of good citizenship and to provide adult members of the neighbors with counsel on personal and social problems. It is always glad to lend its facilities to civic groups interested in improving our area.

"It is a nonpartisan organization which has no political affiliation whatsoever. It has, moreover, no sympathy with the Communist party and it is opposed to it and to all other groups which seek by force and insidious actions to undermine our democracy and its development." *Sat. 8-17-46*

Mrs. Mary K. Simkhovitch is director emeritus of Greenwich House. Its board of directors includes Walter Gordon Merritt, Gerard Swope, Herbert Bayard Swope, John P. Chamberlain, Howard S. Cullman, Marshal Field, Lieut. McIlvaine Parsons and Mrs. John T. Lawrence. Dashiell Hammett is president of the Civil Rights Congress.

Probe Of Police Beating Urged

The Defender Chicago, Ill.

Harlem Musician Assault Victim

Sat. 7-27-46

NEW YORK—An investigation by the Police Commissioner into the recent unprovoked beating of a Harlem musician by New York policemen was demanded last week by a civil rights delegation at police headquarters led by Dashiel Hammett, noted mystery writer and president of the Civil Rights Congress.

The famous author of the "Thin Man" presented a petition, signed by more than 2,000 persons in the entertainment field, calling for a sweeping investigation of the incident. The petition was given to the deputy police chief to be forwarded to the commissioner.

The beaten musician is Carlton Powell, member of the Herman Chittson trio. On June 12 he hailed a cab to go home and was refused by the driver. He appealed to the police and alleges that as a result of the cab driver's story he received a severe beating from officers of the 51st precinct.

He will be arraigned before a judge of General Sessions court next week on a disorderly conduct charge. Powell was so brutally beaten by the police that he was confined to the hospital suffering from concussion, possible skull fracture and face and scalp wounds.

The petition to the commissioner demanded that steps be taken to correct the complaisant attitude permeating the department. The petition pointed out further that Negro artists particularly have been victims of this "pass law" of the police and the taxi companies.

N.Y. Police Blamed for Racial Clashes

The Afro American Baltimore, Md.

Protests against police inaction in recent cases of hoodlum violence against colored persons in Greenwich Village were lodged with Police Commission Wallender, last week by a delegation from the Greenwich Village Civil Rights Congress. *Sat. 12-14-46*

"Two recent incidents in the Village indicate a new flare-up of racist attacks," one of the delegates, Miss Dorothy Kley, pointed out. "They illustrate the unwillingness of police to make arrests, even when they catch hoodlums in the act of beating persons on the streets," she said.

"In one case, when a colored man named Carl Johnson was beaten on Sheridan Sq., police pulled his two assailants away and rushed them off to prevent their arrest. In the other recent instance," Miss Kley stated, "no arrest followed when windows were broken and anti-colored epithets hurled in the door of an art store which has colored employees on Cornelia St."

N.Y. Police Head Terms Charges of Brutality False

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 8-17-46

NEW YORK — Charges that New York City policemen are brutal in their handling of prisoners were denounced by Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander on Aug. 7 as the result of a "campaign of calumny" being waged against the department by certain groups.

In addition, he denounced "these obvious attempts by certain individuals and groups to associate the police department in a similar category with deplorable incidents or lynching of racial prejudice in other sections of the country."

Singling out Councilman Ben Davis Jr., the commissioner told a mixed group in an hour and a half conference that the charges against the policemen were Communist-inspired and part of a plan to have the public believe them part of a concerted police plan of racial bias and brutality.

Use of Knives Charged

In making their accusations, the delegation referred particularly to the arrest of Carlton Powell, a musician, on June 12 and that of Josie Stewart and of two other women on July 14.

Excusing police action in those two cases by saying that the individuals had tried to use knives, the commissioner insisted that city policemen only used force when necessary to preserve law and order or to protect themselves.

Despite continued insistence by Wallander that policemen only did their duty, the Civil Rights Congress, which has provided counsel for several victims, contended that his statement is provocative to further brutality "and can only increase the growing tension created by the actions of the men under his command."

Citizens Urge Cops to Stop Coney Island Gang Attacks

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 10-12-46

NEW YORK—Led by Andrew Wray, a war veteran, a delegation of Civil Rights Committee members, urged Police Commissioner Wallender to assign more police, including two colored patrolmen, to the Coney Island area in an effort to stop gang attacks upon minority groups.

The delegation also asked the removal of Police Captain Nelson of the 60th Precinct which includes Coney Island, because of his laxity in dealing with the gangs, after he had information which identified them.

Hangouts Named

Two places named as hangouts for the gangsters by the delegation were the F and H Cafeteria and the Downbeat Club.

Jack Sartisky, New York Civil Rights Congress, said five Jewish youths were beaten recently, and that local cops captured one of the hoodlums and released him, when the rest of the gang could have been traced through him.

He said the situation was not just a Coney Island problem, because other beatings of colored and Jewish people had occurred throughout the Brooklyn borough, and the disease was spreading in all parts of the city.

Manpower Shortage Blamed

Commissioner Wallender told the delegation he was cognizant of the attacks, and that they were lamentable. He blamed the police department manpower shortage, and said Mayor O'Dwyer's order assigning 2,000 new patrolman to the force would ease the difficulties.

Mr. Sartisky told the AFRO he didn't believe more patrolmen in Coney Island would help the situation, but getting Captain Nelson out was important because he has done nothing to stop the attacks or apprehend the hoodlums.

Sartisky explained that there doubted whether the commissioner would assign any colored officers there.

Phila. Police Arrest Seven

'Question' Youths About Murders

PHILADELPHIA — What begins to look like a new technique in saving police "face" at the expense of Negroes took on a deadly pattern here last week with the arrest of seven youths, aged from 18 to 24.

Only one of the boys had actually been arraigned, charged with a $15 holdup last November. The rest are jailed as "suspected accomplices." Police allege that the group has confessed to over 100 crimes and Philadelphia papers have fallen in line with cries of "Crime Wave."

Significantly the police have announced that they are "questioning" the youths about two unsolved killings committed last year. They may be preparing to boost their reputation by clearing up the two murders on their books.

Present actions resemble closely the case last March of Nick Williams, 22-year-old restaurant worker.

Williams was convicted in a three-hour trial on 11 secondary charges. Then the police questioners got "evidence" about another of the unsolved murders. He will be tried for murder this week, if he can get to the court from the hospital bed where he is confined.

Thus the pattern seems the same in both cases. Young Negroes are arrested; accused of secondary crimes, "questioned" about unsolved murders, brought to trial for murder. This last phase has not yet occurred in the current case.

Police Brutality Fought In Phila.

PHILADELPHIA—Growing out of a mass meeting on the Freeport case, a new organization, the Philadelphia Committee to Fight Terror Against the Negro People, this week adopted a program of fighting police brutality.

The new group also adopted resolutions demanding the prosecution of Policeman Joseph Romeika for the murder of two Negro vets in Freeport, N.Y.

Heading the body are E. E. Williams, National Maritime Union port agent, and Paul Jensen, of the American Veterans Committee.

Students Protest Police Brutality

Resent Beating Given to Chinese Veteran

SWARTHMORE, Pa. (ANP) — Some 450 students of Swarthmore College held a rally on the campus, Wednesday, to protest the assault by two Springfield Township police officers on a fellow student, Kuo Ching Li, 24, of Glen Cove, N.Y.

K. C. Li, a Chinese-American veteran of the famous "Flying Tigers," was returning to Swarthmore campus about midninght on May 17, in a taxi driven by an unidentified colored man.

Since the drive did not know the way, Li had taken the wheel and was driving the car, when it was stopped in a Swarthmore borough by a police car containing two Springfield Township police officers.

Protests Arrest

After searching both Li and the driver, they locked the driver up and when the student returned to the police station to make a complaint, one of the officers struck him several times, knocking him down.

He was then jailed and held all night on charges, including assault and battery against the policeman, and was not released until he paid a $10 disorderly conduct fine.

Swarthmore Rally Protests Police Beating Of Chinese

SWARTHMORE, Pa. — Brutal beating and jailing of a Chinese-American air hero by two Springfield Township policemen here was the object of a protest rally held on the campus of Swarthmore college here last week.

More than 450 men and women students at the meeting demanded that the attackers of 24-year-old K. C. Li be brought to justice.

Li, a former pilot in the "Flying Tigers," holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal and Soldier's Medal, was stopped while driving to the campus the night of May 17 in an unidentified Negro's taxi by two police officers. One covered Li and the driver with a rifle.

The two officers searched both occupants and after warning both men not to mention the incident or "get their heads bashed in," allowed the air ace to go to his dormitory. The Negro driver was held on a charge of operating a taxi without a permit.

Knocked Down

A short while later, Li appeared at the Swarthmore borough police station to make a complaint against the two officers. While he was there, the policemen, who had locked the Negro driver in the Springfield jail, came into the station.

The Chinese student pointed to the officer who had threatened him. The policeman knocked Li to the floor, gave him a thorough beating and threw him into a cell.

Refused a lawyer by Justice of the Peace, Squire Morgan, at a hearing on the following morning, the war hero was placed under bail of $300 and charged with assault and battery until the police learned of his war record. The charge was speedily shifted to disorderly conduct and a $10 fine, which Li agreed to pay. The Negro driver was fined $14.

Swarthmore students are demanding that both of the policemen involved in the Li attack be dismissed from the force.

Monroe, Ga. Comes to Philly

By Walter Lowenfels

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4.—The half-dozen policemen shoved the bleeding young Negro they had just blackjacked into their car and drove off into the midnight streets. My wife and I left the cold, bitter group of Negro workers and Pennsylvania University students muttering after them and at the half-dozen uniforms that stayed behind.

We crossed the street to resume our way home. A Negro in overalls followed us. **"Make your headline 'Monroe, Ga., comes to 36th and Woodland Sts in Philadelphia.'"** He walked off.

The blood is still on the pavement there, and no trees will grow on it to mark the spot where one more Negro was beaten. And no wreaths will be layed because he wasn't killed, the way the Ferguson brothers were in Long Island, or the five martyrs in Georgia.

Just beaten, just blackjacked, just held, hands behind his back by two cops while one of them swung the billy and opened the deep gash on his forehead that splashed a dark stain over the police shirts and onto the pavement.

Just one more Negro "put into his place" with a club, held for an hour by six police while he dripped blood and pleaded: "Just let me go. Give me a break, yiuu you"

"I saw it. Take my name . . . Calvin Clark, 713 N. 47th St. . . . Walter Revers, 1610 N. 10th Ct. . . . William Morris, 1544 Woodstrat St. . . . Officer 951 held him. The big one hit him with his blackjack."

And the young university students:

"Eight cops for one guy! Why don't you get a motorcycle battalion?"



Hands to Help, Not Beat: George Mike Elliot, blind and crippled hero of World War II, shown here being helped by a comrade in the Army, was just another Negro to be clubbed by the cops in Philadelphia. It didn't matter to them that he had come back after five years in the Army, stone blind, with a broken leg, a broken arm and a bad back.

Cops Club Blind Negro War Hero

Special to the Daily Worker

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 9.—Police didn't blind George Mike Elliot when they beat him at Broad and South Sts., early last Saturday morning. The Nazis had already blown one eye out with a land mine and left the other sightless for life. He came back in May after five years in the Army with a broken leg, a broken arm, a bad back and stone blind.

He was talking with some friends when the police started to shove him: "Move along." Elliot protested: "I'm blind. We're not doing anything wrong."

"Fresh, aren't you? I don't give a damn if you are blind," the police answered as they clubbed him on the head and kicked his wounded leg.

His foot was so swollen he couldn't get into his shoes and had to wear a slipper to go to the Naval Hospital to have the pus drawn from his empty eye socket Wednesday.

The NAACP is investigating the case, Randy Dixon, public relations chairman, told us. Elliot lives with his foster mother at 1311 S. 22 St. He was a vocalist with New York bands before he gave up his eye in the fight against Hitlerism. Now, other hands have to help him, as in the picture above.

Negro Kids Attacked By Philly Police

New York, N.Y. Philadelphia.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Maybe this is just a common example of police brutality against Negroes, but it struck us hard. We saw it with our own eyes.

My husband and I were walking in the center of town. On 15 St. two blocks from City Hall, we saw six young Negro boys, between 9 and 11 years old. They were making music on home-made instruments. It sounded good. They were beating hand - wrought drums, a washboard, a stringed instrument.

One boy was singing Caledonia while the others beat out a swing rhythm. A few others gathered around to enjoy the music and give the boys some coins.

Suddenly, a red police car drove up. Two heavy cops stormed over to the music-making youngsters, shouting: "We've told you to keep away from this corner. Then, without warning, one of the big policeman shoved a boy aside and stamped on his home-made drum.

We were all horrified at the ruthless smashing of a small child's handicraft, a child who probably couldn't afford to buy a drum.

Then, all the youngsters were hurled into the police car. One man near us said: "Now they're going to make hardened criminals out of them."

PAULINE S.

S.C. Student Charges Beating by Policeman

The Afro-American

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ANP) — Charges that he was beaten about the face by City Officer Poole for failure to add "sir" to "yes" and "no" were made by William Hunter, a sophomore at Benedict College here last week.

12-4-46

Baltimore Md.

According to Hunter, who was booked on an "investigation" charge and bailed out later, a second officer struck him as Poole led him from the drug store, where he works, to the jail. Mayor Frank C. Owens is studying the case.

Sat. 12-14

It Could Be True

(Lighthouse and Informer, Columbia, S. C.)

Atlanta Daily World, Ga.

A Negro prisoner in federal court here last week admitted he had been assisting in the operations of a bootleg whiskey still but told the court he had been beaten and forced to keep at it. 3-30-46

While his testimony may be accepted lightly or be given the "quietus," too frequent are reports and rumors of similar mistreatments and plain peonage in South Carolina. The story is that the general practice of officers arresting Negroes is to slap them or bash their heads without justification as a means of impressing the arrest upon them. We know of instances in which Negroes detained on suspicion have been slapped or beaten by interrogating officers for no reason other than they had omitted saying "yes sir" to a "white man."

Sunday. Ga.

On a certain farm in Laurens county—and this is said by a noted white attorney from that county—Negro farm workers and tenant farmers have been beaten and murdered for the offense of slipping out to work on neighboring farms on a dull day where the pay was livable and the "boss" good. The case of the late Sammie Osborn tells the story best of Barnwell county. And six years ago in Sumter county white women objected to NYA training and $17.50 monthly pay to Negro women on the grounds it would take away their cooks whom they paid six or eight dollars a month.

In Lexington county a few weeks ago, a Negro who left the employ of a farmer-bootlegger had his home invaded and a beating administered. When he defended himself—in his home—he wound up doing 60 days on the chaingang and faced with a more serious charge of aggravated assault.



Daily World, N.Y. 7-27-46

Blinded by Carolina Cop: Isaac Woodward, Negro veteran whose eyes were gouged out by an Aiken, S. C., policeman, applies for maximum disability benefits at the Veterans Administration in New York. In photo are, seated: Isaac Woodward and David Edwards, field director of the American Red Cross; standing, left to right: Oliver W. Harrington, NAACP public relations director; Edward Nottage, assistant Red Cross field director, and Mrs. Isaac Woodward, the veteran's mother.

Negroes Want Governor To Remove Chief

Columbia, S. C. State Aug. 20, 1946

By The Associated Press

"Removal" from office and "prosecution" of Chief of Police L. L. Shull of Batesburg was asked yesterday in a resolution adopted by the state conference of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Shull disclosed Saturday that he struck Isaac Woodard, Jr., Negro war veteran, with a blackjack one night last February, when he took Woodard off an interstate bus and carried him to jail for alleged drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Woodard, now in New York, claims he was blinded by the blow.

The NAACP resolution petitioned Governor Ransome J. Williams to take steps against Chief Shull. It condemned "police brutality" for Woodard's injury.

Shull told the Associated Press Saturday that he struck the Negro when the latter resisted arrest and attempted to wrest away his blackjack. He said he did not know the extent of the injury suffered by Woodard, although he said the Negro's eyes were "swollen shut" the following day, when he brought him to the Veterans hospital here after Woodard was fined $50 in recorder's court.

Prior to the state NAACP resolution, national association headquarters had announced a $1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Woodard's injury. The reward was offered, however, at a time when Woodard said he was injured at Aiken and when officials of that city denied that the incident happened there.

The state conference re-elected J. M. Hinton of Columbia president, also renaming all other state officers. Georgetown was chosen for the next convention.

Ruth Hurley, youth secretary from national headquarters, urged youth chapters to fight for "all citizenship rights." She also stressed leadership training among the young Negroes.

In the keynote address, J. A. Simmons, former Negro school principal here, called for an end to race segregation. He said segregation always resulted in inequalities.

$22,000 For Blinded Vet

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 8-21-46

NEW YORK — (NNPA) — Isaac Woodard, a war veteran, who is blind as the result of a beating given him with a black jack by Police Chief L. I. Shaw at Batesburg, S. C., will receive a purse of $22,000 as the result of a mass rally held in his honor of Lewisohn Stadium last Friday night.

A crowd estimated by police at more than 25,000 crowded the stadium to watch stars from the theatrical and entertainment world perform on behalf of Woodard, holder of a battle star and veteran of fifteen month's service with the 429th Port Battalion in the Philippines and other units in New Guinea.

Carol Brice, concert contralto, told the crowd that the entire proceeds of the rally would go toward training Mr. Woodard as a restaurateur and establishing him in that business.

Mayor William O'Dwyer, honorary chairman of the Woodard Benefit Committee, said in a speech read by his secretary, Paul Rose:

"If there are sections of this country where individuals have no protection, then the Federal government, under the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment owes the people of this country enforced equal protection under the law. If this means an anti-lynching law, let us have it right now."

Entertainers who gave performances included Canada Lee, W. C Handy, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Pearl Bailey, Louis Jordan and his Typhany Five, Cootie Williams Rex Ingram, Robert Merrill, Josh White, Billie Holliday, Bill Robinson, Peter Lind Hayes, Milton Berle and Woody Guthrie.

Police Blind Negro Veteran With Eye Blow

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala. Sun. 8-18-46

Batesburg Officer Says Soldier Resisted Too Strongly

BATESBURG, S. C., Aug. 17.—(U.P.)—Police Chief L. L. Shaw today admitted he struck Isaac Woodard, Negro war veteran now blinded for life, between the eyes with a blackjack, but said it was necessary to subdue Woodard.

Woodard, permanently blinded by the blows, had said he was told the beating occurred in Aiken, S. C., but police and city officials there denied it.

The provost marshal of the 7th Army in Atlanta revealed the affair happened here, when Woodard was enroute home after discharge.

Shaw said Woodard was drunk on a bus, and resisted arrest. He was forced to strike the Negro, he said, in the face to defend himself and complete the arrest.

Shaw said Woodard's version of the beating, told to the United Press in New York, was "a lie from start to finish."

The police chief said the Veterans Administration had investigated but "they had no favorable comments to make," because "they saw it had to be done that way in order to arrest him after he was thrown off a bus drunk."

Woodard's case had attracted nationwide attention, and had particularly aroused the ire of Aiken, S. C., officials who went to great lengths to get their community's name cleared.

Batesburg is about 30 miles northeast of Aiken. The bus on which Woodard was a passenger passed through both towns enroute from Augusta, Ga., to Columbia, S. C.

The Army also made a routine inquiry but took no official action as Woodward had been discharged 25 hours before he was injured.

Army files contain a civilian police report of the case from Batesburg. The record said Woodard was intoxicated and used obscene and profane language on a bus, and was arrested by Batesburg police on complaint of the bus driver.

The report said Woodard continued the use of improper language after his arrest, leading an officer to threaten to strike him if he did not quiet down. The Negro then, the report said, tried to take the policeman's club, and the officer struck him.

The Batesburg report said the officer who struck Woodard personally took him to the veterans hospital at Columbia for treatment. Sun. 8-18-46

Woodard was fined $50 at the Batesburg police station, and was released.

The Columbia hospital said Woodard was totally and permanently blinded by the blows.

U. S. SAYS POLICE CHIEF BLINDED BRONX NEGRO

The Times New York, N.Y. Fri. 9-27-46

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 (AP)—The Department of Justice today announced the filing of a criminal information against Police Chief Linwood L. Shull of Batesburg, S. C. alleging that he beat and tortured a Negro war veteran last Feb. 12.

The announcement identified the Negro as Isaac Woodard Jr., of the Bronx, N. Y., and said that Woodard "is permanently blind as a result of the alleged beating."

The information was filed in Federal District Court at Columbia, S. C., by United States Attorney Claude M. Sapp, and charged that Shull had "beaten and tortured" Woodard in violation of the Federal Civil Rights Statute. That statute prohibits police and other public officials from depriving a person of rights "secured by the Constitution and the laws of the United States." 9-27-46

The department said: "The mistreatment is said to have occurred after Shull had arrested Woodard in the South Carolina town for allegedly creating a disturbance on a bus on which (Woodard) was returning home after his discharge from the Army earlier that day."

Shull, the announcement asserted, is charged with violating Woodard's "right to be secure in his per-

ar Vet Blinding War

Negro Press Says Dixie Cop Claims Self Defense In

(By The Associated Negro Press)

Batesburg, S. C.—A self-defense claim was made here last week by Police Chief L. J. Shaw in admitting that he blinded Isaac Woodard, a Negro veteran, several weeks ago. Shaw holds that the eyes with a blackjack. An investigation has already been made by the Veterans Administration, Shaw disclosed last week by the provost marshal's office of the Seventh Army in Atlanta. Isaac Woodard, veteran, now permanently blinded by Shaw's version of the beating, told the United Press in New York, was "a lie from start to finish."

The police chief said the Veterans Administration had investigated but "they had no favorable comments to make," because "they saw it had to be done that way in order to arrest him after he was thrown off a bus drunk."

Woodard's case had attracted nationwide attention, and had particularly aroused the ire of Aiken, S. C., officials who went to great lengths to get their community's name cleared.

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The Columbia hospital said Woodard was totally and permanently blinded by the blows.



Ex-GI Isaac Woodward, Jr., shown with his mother in her Bronx apartment, tells of brutal treatment he received at the hands of a South Carolina cop. *Photo by John DeBiase, PM*

Negro Vet Tells How Dixie Cops Gouged Out Both Eyes With Club

By ELEANOR MOREHEAD

The flat, unemotional voice of Isaac Woodward, Jr., does not change when he says, "Then the cop gouged out both my eyes with the end of his billy stick."

Sitting in his parents' apartment at 1100 Franklin Ave., Bronx, the 27-year-old Negro veteran was telling how South Carolina, his home state, welcomed him back from the war.

As if not expecting you to take his word for it, Woodward takes off his dark glasses to show you his sightless eyes. He says they were made that way by an Aiken, S. C., cop last Feb. 13, five hours after Woodward had been handed his honorable discharge papers, and while he was still in Army uniform.

On the sleeve of that uniform were the T/4 stripes he had earned during three and a half years service, the last 15 months of which had been spent in the Philippines and New Guinea where he earned a battle star.

The day he was discharged from Camp Gordon, Ga., Woodward boarded a Greyhound bus in Atlanta to go to Winnesboro, S. C., to join his wife and bring her here to visit his mother and father.

About an hour out of Atlanta, the driver stopped at a small drug store and Woodward asked if he could go to the rest room. He said the driver cursed him and said there was not time.

"I cursed him back," Woodward said, "and told him I was a human being who culd understand civil language. He told me to go ahead but hurry back, which I did."

At Aiken the driver called a cop and told Woodward to get off the bus. The rest of his story, which he told in a sworn affidavit to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, goes on from there:

"The bus driver started telling the police that I was . . . disturbing the bus . . . I started explaining that I was not raising a disturbance . . but they didn't give me a chance to explain. The policeman struck me with a billy . . . When we got to . . . the police station he . . . knocked me unconscious . . .

"When I started to get up he started punching me in my eyes with the end of his billy . . .

"He pushed me inside the jail house and locked me up. I could still see for a few minutes as I can remember, because I was hardly conscious . . .

"I woke up the next morning and could not see . . . A policeman . . . told me to come out . . . I told him that I could not see how to come out I was blind. He said 'feel your way out' . . . I did not make any move . . . so he . . . led me to a sink and told me to wash my face and said that I would be all right . . He then led me up to the judge. . . .

"The judge said to me 'You were raising sand on the bus last night' . . . I told him what happened. . . . He said 'We don't have that kind of stuff down here.' . . . The judge said 'I fine you $50 or 30 days on the road.' I said . . . I did not have the $50. . . . So the policeman said 'You have some money there in your wallet.' He took my wallet and took all I had out of it, which was a total of $40, and took $4 from my watch pocket. I had a check for $649.73, which was my mustering-out pay and soldiers' deposit. He said to me 'Can you see how to sign this check?' . . . I told him 'No, sir.' So he gave it back to me. . . .

"He took me back and locked me up in the jail. . . . I staved there for the rest of the day. . . . (Then) he took me to the Veterans Hospital in Columbia, S. C.

". . . One of the contact men came around one day and said they were going to take out a pension for me. . . . I stayed in the hospital for two months. . . . My sisters . . . brought me back up to New York."

Woodward has been here for three months. His pension has not yet come through. He has no plans for the future. The only advice he got from Veterans Administration doctors was that he join a blind school. At the request of NAACP, Dr. Chester W. Chinn, noted eye specialist, examined him and reported that "the boy's eyes are completely hopeless."

The NAACP asked the War Dept. to investigate. Reached by telephone in Washington yesterday, Col. Marcus Ray, aide on Negro affairs to Secretary of War Robert Patterson, told PM:

"We asked the Judge Advocate to rule on this case, and the decision was that the Dept. had no jurisdiction because Woodward had been discharged.

"In spite of this, Mr. Patterson has written to the Governor of South Carolina asking him to interest himself in the case."

The Governor of South Carolina is Ransome J. ("Ain't nothin' wrong with our chain gangs") Williams. He has not replied to Secretary Patterson's letter.

Woodard's Hospital Record Kept Secret

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) —The hospital file of Isaac Woodard, is a military secret so far as the VA is concerned. Asked whether or not Woodard's record showed that he had been intoxicated at the time of arrest, the VA said Woodard's record was confidential.

Woodard was taken to a veteran's hospital in Columbia, S.C., the next morning after he had been beaten unconscious by policemen in Batesburg. Police Chief L. L. Shaw of Batesburg said Woodard was drunk and

Inducted into Blind Vets Association

NEW YORK—Issac Woodard, Army veteran, whose eyes were gouged out by South Carolina police, was recently inducted into the Blind Veterans' Association open only to veterans who have lost their sight in the service of their country.

Meanwhile contributions to the Issac Woodard fund now total $1,386.89, of which the newspaper PM has received $698 from its readers, while other contributions have been sent directly to the NAACP national office.

SOUTHERN BESTIALITY

The story of Isaac Woodard, Jr., is probably the worst for sheer bestiality and insane race hate that has come to our attention in years.

Here is the story of a young man 27 years old who had just received his honorable discharge after three and a half years of army service, 15 months of which was spent in the steaming jungles of the Southwest Pacific. He was peacefully on his way fom Camp Gordon, Ga., to his home in New York.

While enroute on a Greyhound Bus he happened to irk the white bus driver who in turn summoned local police. Then took place an episode worthy of the dark ages—or better yet—of indescribable beasts whom we would like to feel were totally unrelated to the human species.

In the guise of officers of the law these beasts beat Woodard and without a trace of human emotion gouged out his eyes with the butt of a blackjack. The veteran was then thrown in jail to linger and suffer until these monsters could have their act made legal by Dixie justice.

How a magistrate could look down on this blind, helpless black, still in the uniform of his country, and have the heart to fine him $50 when he saw his deplorable condition only adds to the shocking cruelty of the case.

There is no need to rant or rave or describe in flowing prose what has happened to Woodard—how he has lost one of his most prized natural possessions, how he must go through life frustrated, bewildered and handicapped; constantly wondering how an ironic fate took him through a war unharmed to be destroyed by those who should be forever grateful for his sacrifice.

On reading this account one must stop and ponder. What manner of creatures are these whites below the Mason Dixon line anyway? What has centuries of racial conditioning done? Are they beyond saving? Are they a people who have hopelessly succumbed to this color malady?

Whatever the conclusion, one thing is apparent. By their lynchings, by their mad barbarism, they are as surely destroying themselves as they are the blacks whom they victimize. Woodard is merely another symbol of their continued moral degeneration —a degeneration which started with the first slave trade and which the South has never had the courage or character to withstand.

Orson Welles Tells S.C. Lynch-Town

Said Welles: "I will be at the trial. I will be at the jailhouse door when Woodard's assailant comes out to see who the friends of this boy's assailant are. Only death will keep me from relentlessly covering this case."

16d 1946

COP WHO BLINDED WOODARD FOUND IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Mon. 8/19/46

The South Carolina cop who gouged out Isaac Woodard's eyes has finally been smoked out by investigators of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who found a Negro veteran eyewitness to the fiendish attack.

Police Chief L. L. Shaw of Batesburg, S. C., admitted Saturday that he beat Woodard between the eyes with his blackjack, after the NAACP announced its discovery of the eyewitness.

Last February, when he was blinded, Woodard had been told by police he was in Aiken, S. C. Police Chief J. M. Sprawls of that city denied that the incident happened there.

And all the while Shaw kept quiet until the Negro eye witness came forward.

Several months before the story was released to the press, the NAACP informed the War Department of the incident but got no response. Subsequently, Woodard's affidavit was sent to Attorney General Tom Clark. Still there was no action on the matter. 8/19/46

A nationwide storm of protest was raised over the blinding of Woodard, who had just been honorably discharged from the Army after four years service, 15 months of which were spent in the South Pacific.

Blinded Vet Tells Story in Own Words

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the story of Isaac Woodard, in his own words without embellishment, as contained in an affidavit filed with the legal division of the NAACP.]

. . . . . .

"I, Isaac Woodard Jr., being duly sworn, do depose and state as follows:

"That, I reside at 1100 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., Apt. 2. I am 27 years old, and a veteran of the United States Army, having served from the 13th of October, 1942, to the 12th of February, 1946, when I received an honorable discharge from Camp Gordon, Ga. I served for 15 months in the Philippines and in New Guinea and earned one Battle Star.

South Carolina (Isaac Woodward)

"I was discharged about 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 13, 1946, from Camp Gordon, Ga. At 6:30 p.m. at the Greyhound Terminal in Atlanta, Ga., while I was in uniform, I purchased a ticket to Winnsboro, S.C., and took the bus headed there to pick up my wife to come to New York to see my father and mother. The Afro-American

"About one hour out of Atlanta the bus driver stopped at a small drugstore. As he stopped, I asked him if he had time to wait for me until I had a chance to go to the rest room. Baltimore, Md.

Allowed to Get Off

"He cursed and said, 'No.' When he cursed me, I cursed him back. After I cursed him, he said, 'Go ahead and get off and hurry back.' So I got off, hurrying back as he said. Sat. 7-20-46

"About half an hour later, when the bus got to Aiken, S.C., he stopped again and got off and went and got the police. I did not know what he was doing and thought it was just a regular stop.

"He came back and came in the bus and came to me and said, 'Come outside for a minute,' and I got off the bus. When I walked out, the police were there.

"As I walked out, the bus driver started telling the police that I was the one that was disturbing the bus. When he said that, I started explaining to the police that I was not raising a disturbance on the bus, but they didn't give me a chance to explain.

Struck Across Head

"The policeman struck me with a billy across my head and told me to 'shut up.' After he finished talking, he said to me, 'You won't catch this bus out of here, you catch the next bus.'

"After that, he grabbed me by my right arm and twisted it behind my back, and walked me down the street, continually twisting my wrist. I figured he was trying to make me resist. I did not resist against him. He asked me was I discharged, and I told him 'yes.'

"When I said 'yes,' that is when he started beating me with the billy, hitting me across the top of my head. After that, I grabbed his billy and wrung it out of his hand.

"He ran behind my back and grabbed my arm again. I had him by his right shoulder. After that another policeman came up and drew his gun on me and told me to drop the billy, so I dropped the billy.

Street Deserted

"After I dropped the billy, the second policeman held his gun on me while the other one was beating me as we were walking down the street. I did not see anyone on the street.

"When we got to the door of the police station, he struck me again and knocked me unconscious. After I commenced to come to myself, he hollered 'get up.' When I started to get up, he started punching me in my eyes with the end of his billy.

"I finally got up, and when I got up, he pushed me inside the jail house and locked me up. I could still see for a few minutes as I can remember, because I was hardly conscious.

"A few minutes after he locked me up, he came in and threw me my purse. He went back out and locked the door. I picked out a cot and lied down.

"I woke up the next morning and could not see. Someone brought me my breakfast to the bed. After that, a policeman came to the door and opened the door and told me to come out. He said, 'Let's go up here and see what the judge wants.'

Led to Court

"I told him that I could not see how to come out, I was blind. He said, 'Feel your way out.' I did not make any move to come out, so he walked in and led me to a sink and told me to wash my face, and said that I would be all right after I washed my face.

"He then led me up to the judge, and the judge said to me, 'You were raising sand on that bus last night—stubborn.' So I said to him, 'No sire,' and I told him what happened.

"After I told him what happened, he said, 'We don't have that kind of stuff down here.' After he said that, the policeman spoke and said, 'He wrung my billy out of my hand, and I told him that if he did not drop it, I would drop him.' That is how I knew it was the same policeman as had punched my eyes out.

"After that, the judge spoke and said, 'I fine you $50 or 30 days on the road.' I said that I would pay the $50 but I did not have the $50 at the time. So the policeman said, 'You have some money there in your wallet.'

Officer Takes Wallet

"He took my wallet and took all I had out of it, which was a total of $40, and took $4 from my watch pocket. I had a check for $694.73, which was my mustering-out pay and soldier's deposit. He said to me, 'Can you see how to sign this check—you have a Government check.' I told him, 'No, sir.' So he gave it back to me after that.

"He took me back and locked me up in the jail. I stayed in there for a while and after a few minutes he came in and asked me if I wanted a drink of whiskey—if I took a drink of whiskey I would probably feel better.

"I told him, 'No, sir,' I did not care for any. He went and got some kind of eye medicine and came back and poured it in both of my eyes. He went and got a hot towel and spread it across my head.

Asks for Time

"I stayed there for the rest of the day until about 5:30 that evening. I could tell about what time it was because I asked a policeman and he told me it was late. I do not know if that was the same policeman.

"At that time he came in and got me and told me that, 'We're going to take you to the hospital.' I did not hear anyone else in the room.

"He took me to the Veterans' Hospital in Columbia, S.C. When I got there, the doctor was not in at the time, so he laid me on a bench. A nurse took my name and asked me where I was from and everything, so I told her I was from Winnsboro, S.C.

"The doctor came in and he questioned the policeman and asked him what was the matter. The policeman told him that I was raising a disturbance on the bus and drunk. The doctor asked the policeman was I drunk then, and he said no. So the doctor had an attendant carry me in a room, and the attendant undressed me and put me to bed.

"About 5 or 10 minutes after I was in the bed, the nurse came around and started giving me shots in my arm.

"One of the contact men came around one day and said to me they were going to take out a pension for me. I believe that the doctor who cared for me was named Dr. Clarence.

"I told him what had happened to me. He made no comment, but told me I should join a blind school. I stayed in the hospital for two months—I went in on the 13th of February and came out on the 13th of April.

"My sisters came down to see me, and since they discharged me while they were down there, they brought me back up to New York to my father's home in the Bronx, where I am still staying."

How Woodard Was Blinded

Chicago, Ill.

BATESBURG, S. C., Aug. 17—(ANP)—Despite the fact that even watching Shull's futile attempts to restore the sight he brutally destroyed, might result in arrest and beating, the two workmen remained frozen to the spot.

Call In Doctor

They described the piteous "no's" of the South will stop at nothing in their attempt to keep the Negro people in bondage. These tin horn southern fascists seek to smash the forward movement of the Negro people toward full equality and first class citizenship, by terror and intimidation," he said.

Alves said that local UNAVA chapters throughout the country would take action on the case. Beginning Monday, Aug. 5 they will tour the city in a sound truck, distribute thousands of leaflets, and a petition to the attorney general

Bertram Alves, Regional Director of the United Negro and Allied Veterans, of which Woodward has become a member, later announced the start of a nationwide campaign "to arouse the American people to action." He called the attack on Woodward a "shocking crime" and "a clear warning to all

FBI investigation demanding an EYEWITNESS STORY Legender

saw Shull and a hired man carrying buckets of water into the jail. The morning Woodard answered as Shull doused him with water and asked repeatedly, "Can you see yet boy?" The men who were working in the jail frozen to the spot.

When that failed, he summoned a local doctor. After examining the eyes, the doctor asked how it happened. When he was told that Woodard was resisting arrest he told Shull to "get this boy to a hospital and be damned quick about it."

Reward Up for Carolina Cop Who Blinded Negro Vet

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Thurs 7-25-46

A $1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the Aiken, S. C., policemen who beat out the eyes of Isaac Woodward, a Negro veteran, was offered yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The posting of the reward was announced at an NAACP-sponsored meeting of representatives from veterans' organization.

Franklin Williams, NAACP counsel, told the gathering the Army maintains that Woodward was not injured in line of duty since he had been discharged when he was attacked. This will prevent Woodward from receiving compensation for total disability.

Williams said that while no precedent had been established for such a case he felt that the Army stand was contradicted by the fact that veterans are still subject to Army regulation for twelve hours after discharge, or until they reach their discharge center.

The veterans present, pledged their organizations to send legal briefs to the Veterans Administration and the Army supporting the contention that Woodward was injured in line of duty. 25-46

Woodard Case Example of The Worker's Crusading Spirit

The Worker New York, N.Y. Sun. 10-6-46

Last week the Federal government finally decided to take some action against the South Carolina cop who gouged out the eyes of war veteran Isaac Woodard. The cop is out on a couple of thousand dollars bail. But even this tentative action by the government had to be fought for. Here's the story behind the events.

On July 13, the only newspaper in the United States which broke the Woodard story released by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was the Daily Worker.

Your paper was not content to tell the terrible story. The editor of the Daily Worker immediately sent a wire to the War Department. On Aug. 7, he received a reply from Col. Charles W. McCarthy, executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary of War that "this case is now under study by the Governor of South Carolina, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of Justice."

Issue after issue of the Daily Worker and The Worker demanded action on the Woodard case and told about the peoples' protests on this case. Several days before the Department of Justice decided to do something, the editorial in the Daily Worker supporting the anti-lynch crusade in Washington led off with another demand directed to the Department of Justice.

Not only the news and the facts behind the news are brought to you daily in the Daily Worker and every Sunday in The Worker. These papers fight your battles for a decent America, free of such atrocities as the Woodard case.

That is why we are sure you will understand why we appeal to you to support our campaign for 13,000 new "Daily" readers, 50,000 new Sunday readers. Have you subscribed to The Worker? Has your club or organization ordered a bundle of Daily Workers?



Daily Worker **

Vol. XXIII, No. 167 — New York, Saturday, July 13, 1946 — (12 Pages) Price 5 Cents

S. Carolina Cop Gouged Out Eyes Of Negro Vet Who Fought in Pacific

South Carolina policemen gouged the eyes out of a Negro veteran, three hours after his discharge from the Army, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People revealed yesterday. The War Department has failed to act in the case, it was also disclosed.

The veteran is Isaac Woodward, Jr., 27, of 1100 Franklin Ave., Bronx, wearer of a battle star for service in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns.

Still in uniform, he was taken from a Greyhound bus in Aiken, S. C., beaten unconscious and had his eyes punched out by the end of a policeman's billy, Woodward related.

Get That Cop

America has got to get that policeman who stepped over to a Negro vet in uniform and gouged his eyes out with a billy.

He is known. He spoke to the

The Daily Worker of July 13. The first paper to take up the Woodard case.

About 5:30 o'clock the evening of Feb. 14, he was carried to the veterans hospital in Columbia, S.C., where he remained for two months.

Brought to New York by his two sisters, Woodard was examined by Dr. Chester W. Chinn, well-known eye specialist, who said there is "absolutely nothing that medical science can do to restore this man's sight."

War Dept. Is Silent on Woodward Case

Sat. 7-20-46

The Afro-American

WASHINGTON

The War Department, which two months ago was asked to investigate the case of Isaac Woodward, whose eyes were gouged out by brutal South Carolina police, thus far has had nothing to say about the case.

The attack occurred on Feb. 13, Woodward was carried to the Veterans Hospital at Columbia, S.C. on Feb. 14 and released two months later in April. The NAACP sent the investigation request to the War Department in May. Baltimore, Md.

Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, asserted: "For sheer bestiality and fascist terror the terrible story told by young Woodard is without parallel in all my experience.

"This man served his country for 4 years, 15 months of that time in the South Pacific where he managed to live through and escape all of the horrors of jungle warfare only to return to what he had been told was a grateful nation.

"Here in the homeland he'd fought for and protected he was given a taste of that gratitude by Southern policemen who maimed him for life."

NEW YORK — Some recompense for having suffered blinding from a blackjack wielded by a sadistic South Carolina policeman, last last February, will be felt by Isaac Woodard, war veteran, who has received enough money from various benefits to purchase for himself and immediate relatives, a home in the Bronx.

Dr. C. B. Powell of the News Welfare Fund, to which property in his behalf.

Sat. 7-20-46

Baltimore, Md.

Blinded Vet to Gain Recompense of Home

The Afro-American

News that the purchase of the home at 913 East 222nd St. would be made was contained in a state-

Eyes Are Gouged Out by Savage Policemen

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 7-20-46

Holder of Battle Star Suffers All Night in Cell Without Treatment

NEW YORK.—A horrifying story of police brutality surpassing anything dreamed up by Hitler's dreaded Gestapo was bared here last week by a South Pacific veteran, who will remain sightless the rest of his life as the result of his experience.

The veteran, Isaac Woodard, 27, who served 15 months in New Guinea and the Philippines, the pupils of his eyes totally destroyed, is residing at 1100 Franklin Ave., Bronx, with his mother.

Woodard, in an affidavit placed in the hands of the NAACP, vividly describes the fateful night of Feb. 13 when he was snatched off a bus at Aiken, S.C., and barbarously beaten by two husky policemen, who then sadistically gouged out his eyes as he lay prostrate on the ground.

Suffering almost unbearable pain, the veteran, still in a semi-conscious state, was picked up bodily by the officers and thrown into a narrow cell, where he was left through the night without treatment.

The veteran, who wears a battle star for bravery in action, asserted that he had been discharged at Camp Gordon, Ga., three hours before he board ed a bus in Atlanta for Winnsboro, S.C., to pick up his wife preparatory to visiting his mother here.

Cursed by Driver

After the bus had traveled an hour's run from Atlanta, the driver stopped at a small drug store. Woodard said he approached the driver, asking if there would be time for a visit to the rest room.

The driver cursed him, the veteran said, and was cursed in return. Later the driver, Woodard asserted, said, "Go ahead and get off and hurry back."

Thirty minutes later when the bus reached Aiken, S.C. the bus driver came back to his seat, Woodard said, and said, "Come outside for a minute." Stepping off the bus, Woodard asserted, he was greeted by two policemen, who grabbed his arms. 7-20-46

The bus driver began telling the officers that Woodard had been creating a disturbance on the bus. Woodard began denying this charge, when suddenly one of the policemen struck him with a blackjack.

Refuses to Be Trapped

The other one warned, "You won't catch this bus out of here, you catch the next one." Both officers began twisting his arms behind him, Woodard said, in an apparent attempt to make him resist arrest, but he refused to fall in this trap. The Afro-American

"He asked me was I discharged," Woodard explained in his affidavit, "and I told him 'yes.' When I said 'yes', that is when he started beating me again with the billy, hitting me across the top of my head. Baltimore, Md.

"After that I grabbed his billy and wrung it out of his hand. He ran behind my back and grabbed my arm again. I had him by his right shoulder. Another policeman came up and drew his gun on me and told me to drop the billy or he would drop me, so I dropped the billy." Sat. 7-20-46

The second policeman kept holding a gun on him, while the first continued beating him en route to the jail, Woodard said.

"When we got to the door of the police station," Woodard's affidavit reads, "he struck me again and knocked me unconscious. After I commenced to come to myself, he hollered, 'Get up.' When I started to get up, he began punching me in my eyes with the end of his billy.

Pushed in Jail House

"I finally got up and when I got up, he pushed me inside of the jail house and locked me up. I could still see for a few minutes as I can remember, because I was hardly conscious."

Waking up the next morning Woodard said he found himself completely sightless. Taken before a judge, he was fined $50 or 30 days on the road gang. Unable to pay the fine, Woodard said he was carried back to jail.



YOU CAN LEARN TO SMILE AGAIN: It's a family joke—and a family secret that has the Woodard's smiling. Isaac's mother, at far left, his sister, Mrs. Ida Goodson, and his father, at right, just finished a hearty laugh at something their blinded son said. Amsterdam News New York, N.Y. Sat. 8-10-46

Blinded GI Victim Of SC Brutality Not Beaten

By CONSTANCE CURTIS

There's no tip-toeing about in the Woodard home at 1100 Franklin Ave., in deference to the blind ex-soldier, Isaac, who is recuperating there. He doesn't want the sympathy of his family or anyone else—and he's taking care to see that he doesn't get it.

He has already gone a long way toward learning again to dress himself and get ready to go out for his daily walk with one of his nephews.

After breakfast, if there is no one there from the press of veteran's and other civic groups to talk to him, Isaac is able to make an early start for his walk. He says goodbye to his mother, and starts off at a fairly rapid pace up Franklin Avenue.

If you hold his arm tightly in crossing the street, Isaac will turn with a smile and tell you that he "isn't planning to run away from you."

Changes Trip Daily

The route Isaac takes on these walks changes according to his mood. On some days he heads for the park close by and sits for a while in the sun, away from the nine nieces and nephews who fill his home.

"Sometimes I go to visit my friends in the neighborhood," he says, "and we sit around and talk. I just like to get out in the air and sort of try my legs before I really start going to work every day."

On a small table in the living room is a phonograph-radio, lent Woodard by the Library for the Blind.

"I haven't had time since they sent me two recordings of books to even listen to the first word," he said. "I guess it's just as well though because there's something wrong with the machine at the moment, and they're trying to fix it now."

When Isaac comes in the afternoon and finishes his lunch, there's usually someone waiting who wants to talk with him to get further stories for the press, to question him about the day when his sight was snatched away, or to listen to the plans he has for the future. 8-10-46

A "Strong" Man

Isaac's strong will and driving energy have served him well during these dark days. He hasn't given himself too much time to think about what has happened to him. Instead he talks with his friends, walks until he is so tired that he has to sleep, and quiets the children down when they "get so loud you can't think."

In the evening, after dinner, Isaac often talks to his father and then he hurries into his coat.

"Look Mother," he says, "Willie and I are going out for a little while," and with this warning, he and his cousin—Willie James Mabry—disappear to make the rounds of the homes of some of their friends, or they go around the corner to his sister's home, and finish the evening

"I get so tired if I stay in the house," Woodard said. "It looks like I can't stand it sometimes if I just have to sit around and do nothing. So I get up and put my things on and go out. It's better that way. I'm not used to doing nothing."

Woodard's days are a great deal different from those he spent not many months ago in the Army. Since he was a boy he has worked, and sitting around does not go easily with him. Sat.

"Sometimes I used to think it would be fine to have a long vacation," he said, "but I won't say it again. I didn't know when I was wishing that that this is the way I would get it."

Sometimes during Isaac Woodard's today, you will see him sitting very quietly, unable to see the sun that streams in the windows of his mother's living room, and if you catch him at this moment, there is a strange quietness in his face. These are the times in his day he cannot fill yet, when memory comes up again, and you know that all of the sun and the heat outside his window will not warm his heart that was chilled that day in Aiken, S. C., when he was blinded for his sin of being black



COME SON, I'LL LEAD YOU: Isaac Woodard, Sr., and his blind son start down the steps of their home just after the father returned from work. Isaac can't see the love—and the pain—that the camera's eye caught in the father's face. Amsterdam News New York, N.Y. Sat. 8-10-46

White Erred in Taking Case to War Department

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 8-3-46

Agency Lacked Jurisdiction in Beating of Woodward, Vet Having Been Discharged

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The NAACP's insistence that the War Department assume responsibility in the case of Isaac Woodard, the veteran blinded as the result of a brutal beating by two Aiken (South Carolina) policemen, is mystifying to persons familiar with executive departments' functions.

All during the War, the War Department showed its impotence in dealing with cases of violence against military personnel, outstanding of which was that of a colored military policeman who was killed in Alexandria, La., by State patrolmen.

Incensed, former Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson asked the Department of Justice to prosecute, but was told that it was foolish to prosecute the officer for a misdemeanor under the Federal civil rights statue when he had committed a homicide.

The State of Louisiana refused to prosecute and the officer went scot free.

Action Blocked by House

Later Mr. Stimson asked the Congress to amend existing law to make it a federal offense to kill or assault any military personnel performing duties. The Senate passed the bill, but the House Judiciary Committee never reported it out.

In the Woodard case, Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, communicated with Gov. Ransome J. Williams of South Carolina, who promised a comment after talking

If the Federal civil rights law with State law enforcement officers but apparently has taken no action.

Discharged, No Jurisdiction

Moreover, it was revealed, because Woodard had been discharged at Camp Gordon, Ga., several hours before he was arrested and beaten at Aiken, the Army lacked jurisdiction in case charged.

is deemed inadequate, authorities say Congress should be petitioned to extend exisiting law to make it a Federal crime to kill or assault discselectees traveling to an induction center; military personnel and dischargees military personnel travelling from the point of their discharge to their homes.

IN WOODWARD ATTACK

Special to The New York Times.

AIKEN, S. C., Aug. 13 — The Aiken Standard and Review today received a telegram from the Division of Public Information in which this city was stating that the assault on Isaac Woodward is not in Washington to state where the incident occurred. The first information received was that it happened somewhere between Augusta, Ga., and Winnsboro, S. C.

The Aiken Standard and Review and the Police Department have endeavored to get the authorities from blame in the assault on Isaac Woodward last Feb- ruary. 20th

The message replied to one sent by the paper. It said:

"On the basis of information received to date the location of the

AIKEN IS EXONERATED

NAACP Counsel to Protest Woodard Whitewash to Clark

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Fri. 11-8-46

A vigorous protest to U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark against failure of Department of Justice attorneys to adequately prosecute the Batesburg, S. C., police chief who blinded Isaac Woodard, Negro veteran, is being prepared by Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, it was announced yesterday.

Lynwood L. Shull, the officer who punched Woodard's eyes out with a blackjack Feb. 13 was freed last Tuesday by an all-white Columbia, S. C., jury after 15 minutes of deliberation.

WITNESSES BARRED

Claude Sapp, federal district attorney, prosecutor in the case, barred his only two eye-witnesses from offering direct testimony. They were later put on the stand as rebuttal witnesses and disqualified.

Sapp and Special Prosecutor Fred S. Rogers, of the Department of Justice, failed to challenge a single one of the prospective jurors.

Summing up the case, Sapp asked the jury to "do its duty regardless of what the NAACP says." He failed to ask the jury for a conviction. His assistant, Rogers, however, asked for a guilty verdict. But Rogers' plea was weak and in line with Jim-crow customs of southern courts.

Shull was brought to trial following a nationwide demand that U. S. Attorney General Clark take action against him. The police chief was tried under the civil rights clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, carrying a penalty of $1,000 fine and one year in prison.

DUE HOME

Woodard is due to arrive today at his home in the Bronx from Wichita, Kan., where he addressed a large protest rally.

Franklin H. Williams, assistant special NAACP counsel, who was an observer at the trial, will arrive with Woodard and is scheduled to confer with Chief Counsel Marshall.

Woodard is scheduled to continue his nationwide tour, appearing in Denver, Col., Nov. 15.

The NAACP announced $5,523 has already been received and placed in a trust fund for the blinded veteran. Branches of the NAACP contributed $3,000 to the fund. A total of $2,523 came through appeals published in the Daily Worker, the New York Post and a number of Negro newspapers, a NAACP official declared.



Cathleen Brown (left), of the staff of Dell Publishing Company, presents a money gift, contributed by staff members, to Unis Young, sister of Isaac Woodward, former GI, whose eyes were gouged out by a cop in Aiken, South Carolina, a few hours after his discharge from the Army. Others at the presentation are Belle Stowler and Gloria Lampert. *Photo by John De Biase*

Woodard's Conduct to Decide Eligibility for Federal Pension

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 8-31-46

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Although Isaac Woodard was already discharged from the Army at the time he was blinded by a beating with a blackjack given him by a Batesburg, S.C., policeman, he still may receive a Government pension of $60 a month if he can prove that his injury was not the result of his own misconduct.

The Veterans Administration said recently it has no record of Woodard having filed claim for such a pension, but, if he does apply for one, he must show that his non-service connected disability was not incurred as a result of his own misconduct.

Police Chief L. I. Shaw of Batesburg said that at the time of the incident Woodard was under the influence of liquor, disorderly, and resisted arrest. Apparently unaware of his rights, Woodard recently told newspaper men in New York City that since his injury occurred after his discharge from the Army, he would not be eligible to receive government disability benefits of any kind.

Find Eyewitness To Woodard Blinding

Daily Worker New York, New York 8-17-46

An eyewitness to the blinding of Negro veteran Isaac Woodard has been found, the National Association for the Advancement of Negro People, announced yesterday.

The witness, also a Negro veteran, has remained silent on the savage attack because he feared reactionary action, the NAACP asserted.

The Negro organization has had investigators in South Carolina searching clues to lead to the policeman responsible for gouging out Woodard's eyes. Saturday

The name of the eye-witness is being withheld for obvious reasons.

Although Woodard states the attack took place in Aiken, S. C., because he was so told after he was blinded, the eye-witness asserts that the attack took place in Batesburg, a few miles from Aiken. S.C. 7-47

"The bus operator came into the bus with three police officers and pointed to Isaac Woodard," said the eye-witness. **"One of the policemen came into the back of the bus and took Woodard out. When they got him outside one of the policemen took out a blackjack and smashed Woodard across the head, then carried him down the street. That is the last I saw of him."**

Woodard's Claim Refused by VA

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 9-14-46

Officials Mum About Blinded Vet's Case

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The Veterans' Administration has disallowed a claim for $240 a month service-connected disability pension filed by Isaac Woodard, colored veteran who was blinded by a white policeman on the day of his discharge, it was learned here Friday.

Although the VA refused to comment on the case, it was learned that Woodard has filed a second claim asking for a non-service connected disability pension which, if granted, will allow him $60 a month.

Woodard's first claim for a service-connected disability pension was based on the fact that he received the beating which resulted in his blindness on February 12, the same day he received his Army discharge.

Paid on Date of Attack

Official records show that Woodard was paid by the Army for the day February 12. This led some people interested in his case to contend that he was still in the Army on that day and therefore blinded while in the service and entitled to a service-connected disability pension. The Afro-America

The Veterans' Administration refused to say on what grounds Woodard's first claim had been disallowed, but Maj. Robert LeCompte of the War Department's Bureau of Public Relations said that for pay purposes the War Department looked upon a man as being discharged as of midnight of the day for which he was last paid.

He added that for the purpose of military justice and pensions, it assumed him to be discharged the instant his discharge papers were handed to him.

Informed sources here felt that the VA adhered to this policy in ruling out Woodard's first claim.

Pension $200 Monthly

The law under which Woodard's first claim was filed states that "if the disabled persons, as the result of service incurred disability, has, suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands, or both feet, or one hand and one foot, or is blinded in both eyes with 5/200 visual acuity or less, or is permanently bedridden or so helpless as to be in need of regular aid and attendance, the monthly pension shall be $200." Baltimore, Md.

Last month President Truman signed legislation authorizing a 20 per cent increase in all pensions which would increase the amount allowed under this law to $240.

Since the VA has disallowed the "service-connected" claims, Woodard's only recourse is to the law governing non-service connected disabilities. Sat. 9-14-46

Under this law Woodard can receive only $60 a month until he is 65 years old and will not be permitted to have an outside income to exceed $2,500 per year, the limit permitted to be earned by married men receiving such a pension.

Cites Benefit Funds

A VA official cited the fact that it is important to Woodard just how the money recently raised at a New York benefit show is turned over to him.

It should be determined, the official said, whether or not it would be better to give it to him in a lump sum thereby disqualifying him for a pension this year or whether to place it in a bank and allot him $2,400 a year, an income which would permit him to receive the pension at the same time.

Possibility that Woodard's status in being a selectee rather than a regular Army man, might have influenced the VA in ruling out his first claim was raised here when a VA official recalled parallel cases to Woodard's following the war.

At that time, he stated, the VA regarded a regular Army man as having a contract with the Government which was not terminated until midnight of the day on which his enlistment expired. Draftees, however, he explained, were looked upon as being discharged as soon as they were handed their discharge papers in three Batesburg citizens, H. Ernest Quarles Jr., Mayor of the town, who Thursday alleging that Shull had beaten and tortured" the soldier. The next day, Shull said, he was arranged before rights statute. Woodard across the front of his head when the soldier attempted to take his blackjack out of his hands as the officer was arresting him for allegedly causing a disturbance on a bus.

The file of the Woodard case was to the Federal Court here on Nov. 4 to answer charges of violating the civil rights of Isaac Woodard, of the Unit- States Department of Justice filed a criminal information- "I was no harsher than was necessary to complete the arrest,' he asserted. 9-29-46

Shull, police chief of a \$2,000 bond to- C. E. Jones, former chairman of the State Highway Commission, hands as a result "beaten and tortured" the soldier. The next day, Shull said, he

pearance in the Unit-the State Highway Commission, hands as the officer was arresting

District Court here and H. Fletcher Boatwright. him for allegedly causing a dis-

ver charges of violat- The United States Department turbance on a bus.

ights of Isaac Wood- of Justice filed a criminal informa- "I was no harsher than was nec-

gro soldier, of the tion in the Federal Court here on essary to complete the arrest,' he

York City, who Thursday alleging that Shull had asserted. 9-29-46

nt blind as a result "beaten and tortured" the soldier. The next day, Shull said, he

k beating by Shull. on Feb. 12, in violation of the civil brought Woodard to the Veterans

was arranged before rights statute. Hospital here for treatment after

loan, United States Shull told reporters he struck he complained about his eyes.

It was signed by--

POLICE CHIEF BONDED IN BEATING OF NEGRO

The Times New York, N.Y. 9-29-46

COLUMBIA, S. C. Sept. 28 (AP)— R. Beverly Sloan, Commissioner. The bond was a

Cop Who Admits Blinding Vet Faces U.S. Trial

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 10-5-46

WASHINGTON

Acting on orders from Attorney General Tom C. Clark, the Department of Justice last week charged Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull of Batesburg, S.C., with violation of the Federal civil rights statute in the beating and blinding of Isaac Woodard, New York veteran, on Feb. 12.

Shull, who in August admitted that he was the one who brutally beat Woodard, will face a maximum sentence of a year in prison and a $1000 fine.

Filed in Federal District Court at Columbia, S.C., by U.S. Attorney Claude M. Sapp, the criminal information against Shull points out that the Federal statute prohibits police and other authorities from depriving a person of rights "secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States."

Specifically, according to the Department of Justice announcement, Shull is accused of having violated Woodard's "right to be secure in his person and immune from legal assault and battery" and the "right and privilege not to be beaten and tortured by persons exercising the authority to arrest."

Advised of the action taken, Woodard, a 4-year veteran who spent 15 months of combat service in Guam and the Philippines, stated:

May Stop Others

"I want him punished. I think he should be punished until the day he dies. I wouldn't have him go through what I went through, though.

"I'm not vengeful about it. Nothing they can do to him will give me eyes back, but if they punish him good and legal it may keep the same thing from happening to some more of our boys coming back home."

Woodard, en route home following his discharge from the Army at Augusta, Ga., on the day of the incident, had been arrested on a charge of creating a disturbance on a bus.

Although the veteran first identified Aiken, S.C., as the scene of the beating, Shull himself revealed that it had occurred in Batesburg, 28 miles north of Aiken.

'No Harsher Than Necessary'

Although he admitted using a blackjack, which "might have landed in his eye or eyes," Shull insisted, "I was no harsher than was necessary to complete the arrest."

The police chief who said that he took Woodard to the veterans' hospital at Columbia after he complained about his eyes and stomach admitted further that both of the veteran's eyes were swollen shut by that time.

Meanwhile, according to U. S. Attorney Sapp, Shull will be released under bond until the November session of the Federal court.

The complete text of criminal charges follows:

"The United States attorney charges: On Feb. 12, 1946, in Batesburg, Lexington County, S.C., Lynwood L. Shull, who was a police officer and chief of police employed by the municipality, did wilfully, under color of the law, statutes, ordinances and regulations and customs of the State of South Carolina, Lexington County, and the municipality of Batesburg creating the offices of police officer and chief of police, subject and cause to be subjected Isaac Woodard Jr., a colored citizen and inhabitant of the State of New York and of the United States, to the deprivation of rights, privileges and immunities secured and protected to him by the Constitution and laws of the United States:

"To wit, the rights to be secure in his person and to be immune from illegal assault and battery; the right and privilege not to be beaten and tortured by persons exercising the authority to arrest;

"The right and privilege not to be denied equal protection of the laws; and the right and privilege not to be subjected to different punishments, pains penalties by reason of his race and color than are prescibed for the punishment of citizens;

"All of such rights, privileges, and immunities being secured to Isaac Woodard Jr., by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States as against privation by any person vested with and acting under the authority of the State of South Carolina or any county or municipality thereof;

"That is to say, that on the evening of Feb. 12, 1946, the defendant, Lynwood L. Shull, while acting as a police officer and chief of police as aforesaid, arrested and caused to be arrested Isaac Woodard Jr., brought and caused him to be brought to the police station at Batesburg, South Carolina, and did assault and beat him about the head with a blackjack, thereby seriously injuring him and causing loss of eyesight and total blindness of Isaac Woodard Jr."

Informed of action against him, Shull told reporters that he had reported the case earlier to an FBI agent who he said advised him to "keep quiet about it."

However, the FBI refused to comment on the statement over the week end.

CONDEMNED MAN OFFERS EYES TO ISAAC WOODARD

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 12-14-46

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON — Isaac Woodard, veteran blinded by the Aiken, S. C. police chief, may see again if the wishes of William Copeland, condemned convict, who willed him his eyes are approved by his wife Dorothea.

Copeland offered to have his eyes transferred to Woodard, following his electrocution for murder, scheduled for Dec. 20, through a local paper. A stay of execution, pending hearing on a motion for a new trial has been requested by Copeland's attorney, but little hope is held that it will be granted.

Woodard is currently touring the country in the interest of tolerance under the auspices of the NAACP.

31,000 AT WOODARD RALLY; MAYOR ATTACKS BRUTALITY

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Tues.

The largest audience in the history of Lewisohn Stadium assembled Sunday night when 31,000 people packed the benefit meeting for Isaac Woodard, 10,000 others were turned away. 8/20/46

In a speech read to the huge crowd by Paul Ross, Mayor O'Dwyer characterized the Woodard case as a **"symbol of man's inhumanity to man," and said that "in our democracy we can no longer tolerate brutality no matter where it takes place."**

The Mayor called for **"the elimination of vote restrictions,"** demanded a national **FEPC**, enforcement **by** the Federal Government of existing law as well as passage of a Federal anti-lynch law, as a **"national necessity if the democratic ideal is to be reached."**

The end of police brutality in New York City under a new policy which Commissioner Wallander has been instructed to enforce, was promised by the Mayor.

The meeting was called by the **Amsterdam News**, and was co-sponsored by Joe Louis and Carol Brice.

"We are here," said Hilda Vaughn, of the cast of **On Whitman Avenue, "because we all care so very much, and hope that Issac Woodward's loss of vision may give us all a little extra vision."**

Dixie's Gestapo Again

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

One of the most revolting accounts of barbarism yet to come to our attention is that concerning Isaac Woodward, Jr., 27-year-old war veteran, whose eyes were gouged out by a white South Carolina policeman.

No story from the horror chambers of Nazi Germany can match for sheer gruesomeness the story of how Woodward, after spending four years in the Army, was beaten and butchered only three hours after his discharge from the demobilization center at Camp Gordon, Ga. Sat. 7-20-46

All of this happened last February, according to Woodward's sworn affidavit and although the War Department was notified as early as last May, nothing to date has been done about the case.

This young veteran lived through the horrors of 15 months of jungle warfare in the South Pacific only to return to the land for which he fought to be maimed for life. If ever there was a case calling for investigation and for swift justice for the perpetrators of a heinous crime, this is it.

Reports of brutal treatment of colored service men by white law enforcement officers in the South have been frequent since the early days of the war and seem to be increasing weekly as our veterans return to their homes.

The Gestapo-like tactics of Dixie's cops have too long gone unchallenged and it is obvious that only the intervention of the Federal Government can put a stop to this reign of Southern terror.

Every facility of the U.S. Government, so it seems, has been placed at the disposal of foreign lands while Uncle Sam's own sons and daughters go unprotected at home. This spread of bestiality in the South is a plain case of the tail wagging the dog.

Civilization? Humbug! Democracy? Bosh! After all, can't we clean up the fascists at home as we did those abroad? What's so sacrosanct about Southern constabularies that they can run roughshod over the civil and human rights of American citizens? Or aren't we citizens?

Attorney General Tom Clark and the War Department have their job cut out for them in the Woodward case and in all others involving brutality against our soldiers. We demand that they take immediate action to put an end to this terrorism and to see that the victims of such terror are compensated for their suffering.

Woodard Won't See Again!

162 S.C. The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Doomed Man Offers Eyes, But Doctors Say Blinded Vet Can't Regain Sight by Means of Medical Surgery

Sat. 12-14-46

WASHINGTON—"I have a good pair of eyes which I want Isaac Woodard to have after I am gone." . . . This dramatic statement was included in an exclusive letter sent to The Pittsburgh Courier last week by William H. Copeland. who will be executed at the District Jail here Friday, Dec 20. But Copeland's last wish will not come true. ISAAC WOODARD WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN!

In a tense and dramatic decision, Philadelphia's Dr. Henry Gowens Jr., diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Ot-Laryngology, forever doomed the former war veteran to a life of darkness.



Mr. Copeland

The events which led up to Dr. Gowens' final findings touched five cities and resulted in a maze of wires and long distance calls. Shrouded in secrecy and dedicated to the effort to restore Woodard's sight, were a number of highlighted circumstances.

MANY GAVE SUPPORT

Included among those who worked unfailingly to bring to full fruitition Copeland's last desire were: Walter White, secretary of the NAACP; Dr. Charles Chinn, New York City, who first examined Woodard's eyes; Dr. E. J. Rose, chief of general surgery for the Veterans Administration; Col. Austin Lowery, head of eye service at Walter Reed Hospital; Col. Curtis Reid, superintendent of the district jail where the condemned man is confined; Dr. John H. Graves of Philadelphia; Dr. Gowens and Dr. L. Waller Deichler, chief surgeon of the nationally famous Wills Eye Hospital of Philadelphia, who promised to perform the operation if there were any chance of the eyes being transferred.

162 S.C.

But Police Chief M. L. Shull of Batesburg, S. C., who confessed to having gouged out the eyes of Woodard, and who was later acquitted by a South Carolina jury, had done his work only too well.

Dr. Gowens, who is also assistant surgeon at the Philadelphia General Hospital, in the service of Dr. Deichler and also eye surgeon at Douglass and Mercy Hospital, listed among his finding these facts

1. The lids of both of Woodward eyes show many scarrings done by a blount insturment.

2. Woodward's eyeballs are pulverized, leaving the tiniest p peices of cornea in eac eye and recuding tension of each eye to nothing. Sat. 12-14-46

3. The skin around Woodward's eyes are flaccid. The residue of the cornea is opaque and retracted.

4. The nerve head of each eye has been destroyed and there is no light perception.

5. There is still marked inflammation in each eye and Woodward is still suffering pair from his left eye.

6. The eyes should be cleaned out thoroughly and a gold ball placed in each socket. This would prepare him for plastic eyes.

7. There is absolutely no posibility of Woodward regaining his sight by the transferred of the eyes from Mr Copeland.

The examination which was started at 9:30 Saturday evening and continued until midnight, was made in the presence of Magistrate Joseph Rainey, head of the Philadelph Phia branch of the NAACP, and representatives of the Pittsburg Courier.

COPELAND WRITES

In this letter to the Pittsburgh Courier Copeland had written:

"For some time I have been planning to write to secure your help in my efforts to save myself from the horrible fate that awaits me on Dec. 20--but now that the worst must happen, I would appreciate your help..."

"Please locate Isaac Woodward, the Negro Veteran who was blinded by thet---in South Carolina, some time ago, and ask him to come here and see me at once I have a good pair of eyes I want him or some other worthy person of my race to have after I'm gone. Please act in this matter at onee, for the sake of humanity..." 12-14-46

INTERVIEWS COPELAND

Robert Taylor, managing editor of the Washingotn edition of The Pittsburgh Courier, who first received the letter, interviewed Copeland in his death cell last thursday. In his interview, Copeland co confirmed his written letter, saying:

"Even in my unfortunate position I can't help but feel sorry fo for Woodward. Whatever is necessary to b be done so that he can have my eyes after I'm gone, I'm ready to submit to at any time."

Col. Curtis Reid, Superintendent of the District Jail where Copeland is confined, said, "We are cooperating 100 per cent toward hacing Copeland realize his opportunit to accomplish this goo good deed."

When Walter White, h head of the NAACP, wasc reached by phome on Friday, he enthusiastically agreed to a fur ther examination of Woodward's eyes and gave word tofpraise to Copeland's fine gestures. The Courier

Woodward, who spoke to an over whelming crowd in Pittsburg last Thursday night, was unaware when he left for Harrisburg, capital of the State, Friday morning, that efforts were being made to give him back his sight

But The Pittsburgh Courier had contacted Doctors Graves, Gowens and Deichler in Philadelphia and arranged for the examination.

SERVED FORTY*TWO MONTHS

Woodward, who is 27-years of age, had served three and one-half years in the Unitexd States Army. Fifteen months of this time was spent in the South Pacific with the 429th Port Battalion. He was discharged from the Army at Camp Gordon, Ga on Feb. 13, this year, in Batesburg, S. C. As a result he is permanently blind. Also, he has lost his pension claim and because of the fact that he

But Isaac Woodward will merely emphasizes Woodward's plight.

Even Copeland's magnificent gesture is a "hollow mockery" which

Who fought for democracy in the uniform of Uncle Sam's Army, and objected to the South's brand of democracy, will go through life in stygian darkness.

Police Chief Shull, Batesburg, S. C. who feebly explained that he resorted to blinding Woodward because

Sat. 12-14-46

$1,000 Reward Offered In Carolina Eye-Gouging

NEW YORK—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People posted a $1000 reward to any person or persons supplying information which would lead to the apprehension and conviction of the sadistic Aiken, S C. cops who used Nazi storm-trooper tactics on Negro vet, Isaac Woodard, who lost the sight of both eyes as a result of the outrage.

The posting of the reward was announced at an NAACP sponsorsored meeting of representatives from veterans' oranizations Wednesday, July 24 in New York's Wendell Willkie Memorial Building.

Walter White, NAACP Executive Secretary, in announcing the reward, called Woodard's case a more flagrant instance of fascist brutality than any that had occurred at Dachau.

NO EXAGGERATION

"That is no exaggeration," said White, "Those unfortunate victims in Germany were at least accused however unjustly, of being enemies of the state Woodard was....wearing the uniform of the Army of the United States. He had just finished serving his country to the best of his ability. He had in his a letter from the President of the pocket an honorable discharge and United States thanking him for his contribution toward winning the war.

"The cynical arrogant statement of the chief of police of Aiken, S. C., that there is no record of Woodard's case is to be expected .....I cannot believe that the conscience of the USA is so atrophied as to permit ths outrage to go unpunished.

PART OF PATTERN

"Injustices like these are part of the pattern that produces and tolerates Bilbo, Rankin and their kind. Today it is Isaac Woodard, tomorrow it is a Jew, then a Catholic, a union member then fascism stark and unashamed.

At the meeting representatives of leading veteran's organizations pledged their full support of the N A. A. C. P. fight to secure a full pension for Woodard. The United Negro and Allied Veterans announced their full support of the NAACP and immediately began a nationwide campaign "to arouse the American people to action." This organization already had a sound truck in the New York area urging citizens to write or wire the President, Secretary of War and the Veterans' Administration demanding a full pension for Woodard and criminal action against the Carolina police.

Hats Off!



New York, N. Y. Sun.

PM takes off its hat today to Attorney General Tom C. Clark, who was chiefly responsible for pushing the long-delayed prosecution of Police Chief Linwood L. Shull, of Batesburg, S. C., in connection with the blinding of Isaac Woodard, Jr. Turner Smith, chief of the Civil Rights Section, and Theron L. Caudel, chief of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, are doing an important part of the work of expediting the case, and the information containing the charges against Shull was filed in the Columbia, S. C., District Court by U. S. District Attorney Clause N. Sapp.

Blinded Soldier Was Hit While Resisting Arrest

Batesburg, Aug. 17.—(AP)—Batesburg was established today as the place where Isaac Woodard, Jr., a negro war veteran who claims he was deliberately blinded by South Carolina police officers, was taken off a bus one night last February, arrested, and fined.

Police Chief M. L. Shull corroborated a report from the Seventh army provost marshal's office at Atlanta that Woodard was hit over the head with a blackjack when he became unruly. Woodard, discharged that day by the army at Augusta, Ga., was drunk, Shull said.

"I hit him across the front of the head," Shull said, "after he attempted to take away my blackjack. I grabbed it away from him and cracked him across the head".

Shull said the blow may have landed in Woodard's eye or eyes, which he said were swollen the next day when the negro was hailed before Mayor H. E. Quarles in recorder's court and sentenced to 30 days or to pay a $50 fine.

Woodard later became nauseated and complained about his stomach and eyes, Shull said. He paid the fine, Shull said, and when a doctor suggested that he be taken to the veterans hospital at Columbia "I drove him there", Shull added.

By that time, the officer related, both Woodard's eyes were swollen shut.

Shull said he reported the incident to an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation soon after it happened. When the F. B. I. launched an investigation after Woodard's account of the incident gained publicity, Shull said he was advised by the agents not to discuss the case.

Woodard's story was that the driver of the bus, on which he was en route to Winnsboro from Augusta, Ga., turned him over to police at Aiken. He was beaten by the police and his eyes were gouged out by their clubs, he said.

The story emphatically was denied by Aiken officials after it was publicized in the press and on the radio. The F. B. I. recently announced that an investigation proved Aiken's contention to be true.

Mayor Quarles said he had "no information" about the case.

At Columbia, no official of the veterans administration or the veterans hospital was available for comment.

The Seventh army provost marshal's office said military police investigated the case and found the story much as related by Shull. The investigation was dropped when it was learned Woodard had been discharged from the army prior to the incident.

Shull said he was called to the bus to arrest Woodard because he was disorderly.

The Augusta Chronicle tonight quoted Police Chief Shull as saying he had reported details of the Isaac Woodward incident shortly after it happened to federal authorities, a personnel officer of the Seventh army from Camp Gordon, and an agent of the veterans' administration from Columbia, S. C.

"All these interviewers advised me the least publicity the better and that it would not be up to me to publicize it any further," the newspaper quoted Shull.

In New York, where Woodward has been living with his parents in the Bronx, a benefit show for Woodward featuring Joe Louis and other negro stars of the sports and entertainment world will be held tomorrow night.

Woodward could not be reached immediately for comment on the police chief's statement.

Veteran Had Remained Silent Because of Fear

NEW YORK.—NAACP investigators working in South Carolina in an attempt to discover clues which would lead them to the policemen responsible for the savage attack and blinding of Negro veteran, Isaac Woodard, announced today the discovery of an eye witness to the February 12 assault.

The witness, a Negro veteran, had remained silent for fear of retaliatory action against himself. When found however, the veteran readily supplied investigators with the information he possessed and drew up a signed affidavit when promised NAACP protection.

The veteran, whose identity cannot be disclosed for obvious reasons, in his affidavit clears up a controversy which reached a dramatic climax recently when Orson Welles, hard-hitting radio commenator and Hollywood actor, answered the mayor of Aiken, S.C. who demanded a retraction of the charge made by Woodard that the brutal attack had occurred in that city. Welles, in his regular Sunday afternoon network broadcast had stated that Woodard, a man who had served his country during the war claimed that he'd been attacked and blinded in Aiken, S. C. "The burden of proof lies with you, Mr. Mayor," said Welles. "You should have addressed your demands for a retraction to Sgt. Isaac Woodard. But it would have to be sent in braille, Mr. Mayor, for Isaac Woodard has no eyes," continued the provocative commentator.

Woodard in explaining his reasons for naming Aiken as the scene of his horrifying experience said, "To the best of my knowledge I was attacked in Aiken, S. C. The policeman, after he put me in a car to take me to the hospital answered me when I asked him where I was. He told me we were in Aiken, S. C. When we got to the hospital, the police told the doctor that he was from Aiken, S. C. A few days later a couple of guys came into the ward inquiring about the soldier who got beat up in Aiken. They were interested because they were from Aiken themselves."

According to the story told by the eyewitness the attack actually occurred in Batesburg, a few miles from Aiken. "The bus operator came into the bus with three police officers and pointed to Isaac Woodard. One of the policemen came into the back of the bus and took Woodard out. When they got him outside one of the policemen took out a blackjack and smashed Woodard across the head....then they carried him down the street. That is the last I saw of him," declared the witness.

—(NAACP Photo).

The Afro-American

ISAAC WOODARD JR.

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 7-27-46

THE WHITE HOUSE

President Truman's letter of thanks, shown above, has an ironic twist for 27-year-old Isaac Woodard Jr. He's the veteran of four years in the Army, whose eyes were gouged out by Aiken, S.C. police after his discharge.

Woodard Case Out of Army's Hands

The Afro-American Baltimore Md.

WASHINGTON.

The War Department lacks jurisdiction to take action in the case of Isaac Woodard, whose eyes were gouged out by a South Carolina policeman, it was disclosed here Thursday.

The opinion was expressed by Maj.-Gen. Floyd L. Parks, chief of the public relations division of the War Department, during a press conference.

General Parks pointed out that at the time Woodard was so brutally attacked at Aiken, S.C., he was a civilian and no longer under the jurisdiction of the War Department. Under rulings of the Judge Advocate General, as soon as a soldier is handed his discharge certificate he becomes a civilian.

Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson in a personal letter of June 17 brought the case to the attention of Gov. Ransome J. Williams of South Carolina, who declined to comment until he had talked with the State's Attorney General and the chief of South Carolina law enforcement agencies.

In this particular case, said General Parks, all that Secretary of War Patterson could do was to write the Governor of South Carolina, furnishing him a copy of the affidavit Mr. White had submitted to him.

And they didn't like what had happened to him. So as members of 62 different organizations they held a mass meeting from which they sent a delegation of 60, Negro and white, to the federal Washington to tell the federal heads of the nation that they wanted action—they wanted justice for this Negro veteran. But in Washington that delegation representing one and a

Some Things

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — In Chicago, 1,500,000 people heard him. They knew he'd had his eyes gouged out by race crazed, white supremist-minded South Carolina police. They knew he was a Negro—a G.I. and served his country—like many of them.

Always the Safer Course

The Batesburg policeman who is to be tried in a federal court on the charge of a crime he would better seek a trial by jury of his peers" without delay.

Texans Just Cannot Hear

learned something—they found out that in spite of the modern magic of our communications system — despite newspapers — radio — a federal government head hadn't heard the news yet.

Yes sir, Attorney General of the United States, Tom Clark of Texas had "never heard of Isaac Woodard," ex-G.I.

Charlotte, N. C.

INFORMATION ALLEGES NEGRO VET TORTURED

Justice Department Says Woodard Permanently Blind as Result Of Beating—Proceeding Similar to Grand Jury Indictment.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 26.—(AP)—A criminal information alleging that he beat and tortured a Negro war veteran last February 12 was filed by the Justice department in Federal district court here today against Police Chief Lynwood Lanier Shull of Batesburg.

District Attorney Claud N. Sapp said the court would officially notify Shull of the filing of the information, similar in effect to a grand jury indictment, and set bond for his release until the November court term here.

Shull, informed of the Justice department's action by The Associated Press, said "This is the first I had heard of it."

A Justice department announcement at Washington said the Negro, Isaac Woodard, Jr., of the Bronx, N. Y., was "permanently blind as a result of the alleged beating."

The police chief told the Associated Press he had made the arrest at a bus station where he said the Negro was creating a disturbance and that "I was no harsher than was necessary to complete the arrest."

COMPLAINED ABOUT EYES.

After a night in jail, Shull said, Woodard was fined, and then brought to the Veterans hospital here, 32 miles away, for treatment of his eyes, "of which he complained."

The Washington announcement by the department said the information charged that Shull had "beaten and tortured" Woodard in violation of the Federal civil rights statute. That statute, the announcement said, prohibits police and other public officials from depriving a person of rights "secured by the Constitution and the laws of the United States."

Of the February incident, the department said: "the mistreatment is said to nave occurred after Shull had arrested Woodard in the South Carolina town for allegedly creating a disturbance on a bus on which (Woodard) was returning home after his discharge from the army earlier that day."

Shull, the announcement asserted, is charged with violating Woodard's "right to be secure in his person and immune from illegal assault and battery" and "the right and privilege not to be beaten and tortured by persons exercising the authority to arrest."

Shull said he had reported the incident to an FBI agent at the time of the arrest because the Negro was still in his Army uniform although discharged "and after they investigated, they told me to keep quiet about it."

Later, he said, Justice department agents questioned him about it but failed to indicate that any action would be taken.

Shull said Woodard apparently had been drinknig after his discharge at Augusta, Ga., earlier in the day and a blackjack was used when the Negro becme unruly.

"I hit him across the front of the head," Shull said, "after he attempted to take away my blackjack. I grabbed it away from him and cracked him across the head."

Shull said the blow may have landed in Woodard's eye or eyes, which he said were swollen the next day when the Negro was hailed before Mayor H. E. Quarles in recorder's court and sentenced to 30 days or to pay a fine of $50.

Woodard later was nauseated, Shull said, and complained about his stomach and eyes. He paid the fine and after a doctor suggested he should be taken to a hospital "I drove him" here.

Woodard's story was that the bus driver turned him over to police at Aiken, a town between Augusta and Batesburg, and that he was beaten there by police and his eyes gouged out by their clubs. The FBI recently announced that Woodard was mistaken as to the scene of his arrest and alleged beating.

Charges S. C. Cop Beat College Student

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

COLUMBIA, S.C. — (ANP) — Charges that city officer Poole William Hunter, sophomore at Benedict college, here, early Thursday morning were being studied by Mayor Frank C. Owens.

The officer is reported to have halted the young student as the latter left the Wade Hampton Drug store where he works at night and to have assaulted him when Hunter answered "yes" and "no" instead of adding "sir." Hunter sustained several facial lacerations which neccessitated treatment at the city hospital. He was also struck while being escorted to jail by a second officer. Booked on an "investigation" being disorderly.

Fri. 12-13-46

hargе, Hunter was bailed out by his father, Nathan Hunter of Florence, S. C., and the Rev. E. E. Riley, dean of men at Benedict.

Mayor Owens promised a complete investigation but said Poole had claimed he struck Hunter after the latter hit him in the face.

S.C. Cops Beat Another Suspect

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

White Citizens Report Deed to Dept. of Justice

Sat. 10-19-46

SALUDA, S.C.—Charges that several local and one State officer took a prisoner from the local jail into a wooded section several miles away, and beat him into admitting a house-breaking charge two weeks ago were made to the Department of Justice last week.

The complaints, drawn in letter form by a group of white citizens, said the victim is Leon Boyd who showed members of the Saluda county grand jury many wounds he said were inflicted on him by officers.

Boyd contends that if he had not admitted guilt, he would have been killed.

Broadus Rowe, a white man, is reported to have been similarly handled by local officers a few weeks before when he drew four years on the chaingang.

Call U. S. Case

White leaders interested in the case requested that it be handled either by Federal agency or the NAACP in a Federal court, since no justice could be expected in a county court.

A Columbia lawyer, who was consulted, said it was one of civil rights violation, within the scope of the U. S. Constitution, and identical with actions which led to the arrest of Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull for the blinding of Isaac Woodard Jr., at Batesburg.

Acquittal in Vet's Blinding Rapped

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—The acquittal of Lynwood Shull, Batesburg, S.C. police chief, on charges of torturing and blinding Isaac Woodard, veteran, who had just been released after 15 months' service at the time, brought vigorous protest from the NAACP.

The protest, to be addressed to the Justice Department, which will be based on a report of Frankwilliams, special association counsel, who attended the trial, will charge that the Federal prosecutor:

Sat. 11-16-46

No Eyewitnesses Testified

1. Failed to place two eyewitnesses on the stand to tell how Woodard was arrested and beaten when a bus driver accused him of

2. Failed to challenge any of the prospective jurors or to object to questioning of the jurors by Judge J. A. Waring, who asked repeatedly about membership in Negro advancement society."

3. Practically apologized for prosecuting Shull by telling the jury "I am only doing my job and whatever verdict you gentlemen bring in, the government will be satisfied.

Afro-American

Clark Pledged Prosecution

The results of the trial has greatly incensed the NAACP because Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, in a detailed discussion at the Herald Tribune Forum, promised a vigorous prosecution of the case.

An NAACP spokesman said "we are particularly interested in exposing what happened here, so that the Justice Department will not feel that it can repeat such performances in the Louisiana and other similar cases now awaiting trial."

Baltimore, Md.

N.Y. Contributions, $5,500

Woodard, who interrupted his cross-country tour for the trial, after treatments for recuring headaches here, will resume his traveling in Denver on Friday.

The NAACP revealed that $5,520 in contributions to the Isaac Woodard Fund, aside from those on tour, have been made.

11-6-46

Warns Against Exploitation Of Isaac Woodard

The Chronicle
Detroit, Mich.

Sat. 8-10-46

NEW YORK—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through its secretary, Walter White, announced this week that it was the only organization authorized and retained by Isaac Woodard to handle any matters connected with his case. White, in issuing this statement, said that he desired to warn the public against unscrupulous people who might attempt to use Isaac Woodard's unfortunate plight for their own selfish purposes.

A man claiming to represent the NAACP and the Veterans Administration has obtained Woodard's signature on a paper allegedly connected with the purchase of some property. The NAACP is doing everything within its power to locate this man and to have him prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Thousands of people have expressed their sympathy and interest in this blinded Negro veteran and it is the desire of the NAACP to insure Isaac Woodard that he shall not be subjected to unscrupulous exploitation. The only manner in which this can be done is to inform the public of the existence of the trust fund set up in the association's office in his behalf and to urge that whatever support they desire to offer be channeled through this means.

Woodward refused pension

The Tribune

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Isaac Woodward's claim for $240 a month service-connected disability pension has been rejected by the Veterans Administration, it was learned this week.

Woodward was blinded by a Batesburg, S. C. policeman on Feb. 12, the day he was discharged from the Army, and it is believed the VA ruled out his claim by assuming him to be discharged the instant his release papers were handed to him.

Sat. 9-21-46

The veteran has filed a second claim for a non-service connected disability pension which, if granted, will allow him $60 a month until he is 65 years old.

S.C. Police Angry Over Shull's Case

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ANP) — South Carolina sheriffs and police chiefs are red hot with the Department of Justice, the FBI and other Federal officers because of charges filed against Chief Lynwood L. Shull of Batesburg for blinding Isaac Woodard Jr.

A campaign to bar FBI agents and other Federal officers from all future meetings of State and local officers started on Oct. 9 with protest resolutions being filed with Governor Williams of South Carolina, J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI, the attorney general's office, and South Carolina Congressmen.

Sat. 10-26-46

Another campaign is being waged to raise funds to defend Shull, who State officers assert was "acting in discharge of his duty" when he blinded Woodard.

Leader of the attack on Federal officers was Sheriff H. H. Jessen of Dorchester County.

Eye-Gouging Cop Acquitted

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

All-White Jury Out Only Thirty Minutes

DOCTORS TESTIFY

Sat. 11-16-46

Vet's Civil Rights Held Not Violated

By OLLIE STEWART
AFRO Staff Correspondent

COLUMBIA, S.C.—An all-white jury, in Federal Court here, Tuesday evening, exonerated Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull of Batesburg of guilt

in gouging out the eyes of Isaac Woodard Jr., with a blackjack last Feb. 12.

The trial, tentatively postponed Monday to Wednesday or Thursday, was moved up to 11 p.m. Tuesday, and the all-white prosecution and defense attorneys had concluded their arguments at 7 p.m. The verdict was announced Federal Judge J. Waites Waring just 28 minutes later.

Fred Rogers, white, came from Washington to act as special assistant prosecutor, working with Claud N. Sapp, white, U.S. District attorney, here.

Franklin H. Williams, assistant special counsel, NAACP, brought Woodard here from New York for the trial.

Although it was election day, nobody paid any attention to ballmen who arrived too late to gain admission. Since the court house was Federal property, there was no discrimination to toilet facilities. The same thing was true regarding elevators and drinking fountains.

Every time the elevator spilled with another load in front of the courtroom doors, even the elevator operators, man pressed forward into the crowd to see whether he could catch a word or two.

Afro-American

No JC on Federal Property

Bobby soxers and boys with hard-bitten white farmers and businessmen who arrived too late to gain admission.

Sat. 10-26-46

Leer persons packed the court house for the reet pleats stood quietly

16a 1 46 South Carolina (Isaac Woodward)

BATESBURG, S.C.

Town Where Vet Had Eyes Gouged Out Has Long Record of Police Brutalities

The Afro-American

Workers Near Jail Verify Woodard's Story; Reprisals Feared by Victims and Witnesses

(Special to the AFRO)

BATESBURG, S.C.—Not a single colored person among several scores questioned Thursday doubts a word of Isaac Woodard's story of being blinded by Police Chief M. L. Shull.

In fact, several workmen who happened to be close to the jail the morning of Feb. 13 (Woodard was jailed the night of Feb. 12) saw the then unidentified soldier "caked with blood from his head to his feet."

Here's the story of one worker:

"We saw Chief Shull and a highway patrolman carrying water, and when they kept bringing so much we were wondering why.

Bloody From Head to Foot

"Then we saw the soldier all caked with blood from head to foot. Chief Shull would wash his eyes and his face and ask, 'Can you see yet, boy?'

"When the soldier kept saying, 'No, sir,' he would just keep on washing and asking whether he could see.

"After a while they got some medicine and put that on his eye. But still he said he couldn't see. So Chief Shull and some other policemen talked a while.

Get Aid 'Damn Quick'

"After that, Dr. King (W. W. King) came up and looked at the soldier and asked some questions. Dr. King said the boy was blind and that the best thing was for them to get him to a hospital 'and damn quick.'

"We were working slowly and acting so that the policemen wouldn't notice us. Chief Shull led the soldier by the hand to his car and put him in. He went inside and came out a little later and drove off towards Columbia."

Shull admits taking Woodard in his car to the veterans' hospital at Columbia after he discovered that the latter was blind.

Fear of Reprisals

While they regretted Woodard's plight, the colored people indicate that they expected it, but having lived under so much of it for so long, they are afraid to talk.

Only after the reporter promises his neck to withhold their names, will they say anything. As one woman puts it:

"You see, this is a small town. Maybe I can get out and get away, but what about my mother, my sisters, my brothers? If they can't get me, they'll take it out on them."

The Afro-American

And this woman had already had her experience.

16 Beaten After Fight

On Christmas night, 1942, she and her soldier husband had visited a night spot in Leesville, Batesburg's twin city. Scarcely 500 feet separate respective corporate limits.

An unidentified young white special officer and a colored man engaged in a fight in front of the place.

Baltimore, Md.

This young woman came outside to see what had happened. Chief Shull, an aide known only as "High Pocket" and several officers from Leesville suddenly descended on the colored patrons with clubs and fists swinging.

Almost a score were rushed over to the county jail at Lexington, 16 miles away, with bleeding heads and various other injuries.

Use Blackjacks on Woman

The following morning the young wife returned to Leesville to find out what the case was about. The police had not jailed her but had taken her husband.

Shull, a deputy and two other officers grabbed her, she said, and headed towards Lexington, pulling into a side road about two miles out. Shull began striking her with his fists while the other officers used a rubber hose and blackjacks, she continued.

No Explanation Given

She was in such a bad condition when she reached the Lexington jail that the sheriff summoned a Lexington doctor to treat her.

Sat. 8-31-46

The next day she was released to her mother, taken home and put under the care of a local doctor, who on Dec. 28 issued a bulletin declaring her too ill to attend court in Lexington. She has never been fined or given explanation for her treatment. A few days later, the same officers, led by Shull, arrested a man who was convicted of cutting the officer. The others were then freed but those who were out on bond never cared to seek its return.

In 1943 or 1944 George Goldsten, a drayman, accidentally bumped a local white woman whom he could not see behind an armful of boxes he was delivering to a local store. The woman claimed that he had told her to "move out of the way."

That night an unidentified white trio whisked him several miles into the woods, pulled a crocus sack over his head, whipped him until they thought he was dead, and left him in the woods. Several hours later, he gathered his wife and children and hurried north.

Another case is that of Willie (last name withheld), who in 1945 was arrested for "stealing a bunch of collard greens from the city curb market," beaten almost to death by Chief Shull and another of the three-man force and given 30 days on the chain gang.

Prominent Youth Brutalized

Johnny (a fictitious name) was arrested one night in April, 1945 as he started across the street with a gasoline can for a businessman who had requested it. An officer arrested Johnny and charged him with stealing gas (The can was empty.)

Discovering that Johnny belonged to a leading family, Shull and the officer beat him with rubber hose, clubs and fists in an unsuccessful effort to make him confess. He was fined $25 or 30 days.

Shull's Father Disgusted

However, there are many whites who do not condone Shull's actions. His own father has tried always to be fair to his colored farm hands and to show as much liberalism as possible.

Retired now, he lives within three miles of Batesburg. Several times he has cautioned his son, "You're going to get in trouble, Leonard, the way you are acting. And it won't do anybody any good."

But the old-timers say, "We got along all right until that man Quarles (J. L.) got to be mayor four years ago. He comes from Edgefield County, and no good white people have been born there yet. Since he's been here, Shull has just gone crazy on white people."

Progressive Teachers Fired

Two years ago, the entire teaching staff at the colored school, one a 20-year worker, was fired for holding secret meetings, talking about voting and joining some Northern organizations.

The consensus is that Shull, in making arrests, first "beats your head" and then asks, "What you done? You look like you done something.

One citizens added, "And I guess he does the same thing to white strangers and those who try to be decent."

"Do Be Careful"

One heavy middle-aged woman interviewed as she lay ill on her bed, begged this reporter, "Son, for God's sake, do be careful. Dont' let them know you are here.

"And don't talk too much to people. You don't know who they have in our race working for them. For the Lord's sake try to keep what you are doing to yourself and don't stay here too long."

Vet Who Witnessed Attack on Isaac Woodard Found

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 8-24-46

NEW YORK—NAACP investigators working in South Carolina to discover clues leading to the policemen responsible for the savage attack and blinding of Isaac Woodard, a veteran, announced, Aug. 15, the discovery of an eyewitness to the Feb. 12 assault.

The witness, also a veteran, had remained silent for fear of retaliatory action against himself, it was said.

When found, however, the veteran readily supplied investigators with the information he possessed and signed an affidavit when promised NAACP protection.

Clears Up Controversy

In his affidavit, the eyewitness clears up a controversy which reached a dramatic climax recently when Orson Welles, radio commentator and actor, answered the mayor of Aiken, S.C., who demanded a retraction of Woodard's charge that the brutal attack had ocurred in that city.

Welles, in his regular Sunday afternoon network broadcast, had stated that Woodard, a man who had served his country during the war, contended that he'd been attacked and blinded in Aiken, S.C.

"The burden of proof lies with you, Mr. Mayor," said Welles. "You should have addressed your demands for a retraction to Sgt. Isaac Woodard. But it would have to be sent in Braille, for Isaac Woodard has no eyes."

Was Told It Was Aiken

Woodard, in explaining his reasons for naming Aiken as the scene of his horrifying experience said, "To the best of my knowledge I was attacked in Aiken, S.C.

"The policeman, after he put me in a car to take me to the hospital answered me when I asked him where I was. He told me we were in Aiken, S.C. When we got to the hospital, the police told the doctor that he was from Aiken, S.C.

"A few days later a couple of guys came into the ward inquiring about the soldier who got beat up in Aiken. They were interested because they were from Aiken themselves."

Happened Few Miles Away

According to the story told by the eyewitness, the attack actually occurred in Batesburg, a few miles from Aiken.

"The bus operator came into the bus with three police officers and pointed to Isaac Woodard," he says. One of the policemen came into the back of the bus and took Woodard out.

"When they got him outside one of the policemen took out a black jack and smashed Woodard across the head; then they carried him down the street. That is the last I saw of him."

Fund Over $2,000

Meanwhile, contributions to the Isaac Woodard Trust Fund total $2,118.89, of which $264 was sent in by readers of the newspaper PM.

A letter from one PM contributor is indicative of the feeling of many. Arthur S. Krival, of Columbia, Mo., wrote:

"It is with shame and anger and immense feeling of ineptitude that I send this contribution to the Isaac Woodard Fund. As in the past, the decent but passive citizen must salve his conscience.

But will there be more funds? Will there be other Isaac Woodards?

Will our self-styled liberal newspapers again rage and indict; and will the rest of us once more shrug our shoulders in unhappy resignation and reach into our pocketbooks for the only balm we have to offer?"

S.C. Cop Admits Blinding N.Y. Vet

BATESBURG, S.C. — Police Chief M. L. Shull of this city (a few miles from Aiken), on Saturday admitted tht he struck the blow which gouged the eyes of Isaac Woodward Jr., New York war veteran last Feb. 12.

Corroborating a report from the 7th Army provost marshal's office at Atlanta, the Police Chief said he told the officer further publicized in the press and on the radio. The FBI recently announced both Woodward's eyes Isaac Woodward. But it would

tha an investgation proved Aiken's contention to be true.

Eye-Witness Found

NAACP investigators searching for clues in South Carolina leading to the officers responsible for the attack on and blinding Woodward, announced on Aug. 15 that they have discovered an eye-witness to the assault.

This witness, also a veteran, has ation against himself, he reported. remained silent for fear of retali- However, when found, he readily give the NAACP the information he possessed in affidavit form, after assured of NAACP protection.

Affidavit Ends Debate

His affidavit clears up a controversy climaxed dramatically when Orson Welles, radio commentator and actor, answered the mayor of Aiken who demanded a retraction of Woodward's story that he was attacked there.

"The burden of proof lies with you, Mr. Mayor," said Welles. "You should have addressed your demands for a retraction to Sgt. Isaac Woodward. But it would have to be sent in Braille, for Isaac Woodard has no eyes."

Aiken Absolved

The veteran's report on the attack said he was en route to Winnsboro from Augusta, Ga., when the bus driver turned him over to police at Aiken where he was beaten by the police and his head about his stomach and was taken to the Veterans' at Columbia, Shull drove

police Chief said the vet- er became nauseated and when a doctor suggested

enced to 30 days or a fine were Mayor H. E. Quarles in s Court. He paid the

was called to a bus to arrest Woodward because he was disorderly, and was arrested for drunkenness. of $50 by Mayor Recorder's Court. fine.

Assault Described

"I hit him across the front of the head," Shull said, "after he attempted to take away my black jack. I grabbed it away from him and cracked him across the head.' He added that the blow have landed in the veteran's eye or eyes, which he said were swollen shut.

By that time, the officer reported, the Police Chief said he was en route to Columbia with Woodward admitted. But it would

have to be sent in Braille, for Isaac Woodward has no eyes."

Jury Acquits Police Chief of Charges In Blackjack-Blinding of Negro Veteran

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. Wed. 11-6-46

Columbia, S. C., Nov. 5 (AP)—Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull of Batesburg was found innocent by a Federal Court jury tonight of charges of violating, by beating him blind, the civil rights of Isaac Woodard, Jr., Negro war veteran from New York City.

Woodard testified that Shull beat him until he was blinded in arresting him last February 12.

Shull Denies Charges.

The Federal Department of Justice filed a criminal information against Shull late in September, alleging that the police chief had violated Woodard's civil rights by "beating and torturing" him.

At today's trial Shull denied the charges and said he struck the Negro only once, in self-defense, as they struggled for possession of his blackjack.

The white male jury deliberated less than half an hour.

Accused of Rowdyism.

Woodard testified that he was removed from an interstate bus at Batesburg after being accused of rowdyism and intoxication. Shull was waiting for him at the bus door, he said, and struck him before he could say anything. He charged that en route to the Police Station the police chief beat him in the face so severely he was blinded permanently.

The Negro's lawyer turned to the plaintiff at one point in the trial and asked him to remove his glasses so the jurymen could see his condition.

The jurymen leaned forward intently as Woodard turned in their direction and took off the glasses. His eyes were shrunken back into his head and nearly closed. The defendant sat stoically twiddling his thumbs.

Driver Is Witness.

Alton C. Blackwell, driver of the bus that carried Woodard from an Army discharge center in Georgia, testified that Woodard was drinking from a bottle on the bus and was "cussing" and creating a scene. He said he called a bystander at Batesburg and asked him to summon police. He said he did not see the police chief strike Woodard.

Shull testified later that Woodard was "very loud and boisterous" and that he told Woodard to "Hush your mouth." He said that when the Negro kept repeating "profane and vulgar" language in front of the assembled crowd at the bus station, he led him off to jail.

Shull said that as he and the Negro walked to the jail two blocks away, Woodard grabbed his blackjack, but he (Shull) held on to it.

"When I pulled free from the Negro, he made for me. I shoved off with my left hand and hit him with the blackjack I was holding in my right hand. I had no intention of hitting him in the eyes. I am sorry I . . . caused him to be blind."

Press Shuns Brutality to Negro GI

Daily Worker New York, N. Y. Tues. 7-16-46

'Daily Worker' Only New York Paper to Report Carolina Gouging

The only daily newspaper in New York reporting the blinding of Isaac Woodward, Jr., South Pacific Negro war veteran, was the Daily Worker.

The terrible tale of a South Carolina policeman gouging the eyes out of the Bronx veteran was sent to all newspapers by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Every paper, except the Daily Worker, ignored the horrible facts presented in affidavit form.

This story of American fascism at work was so important that the London News Chronicle asked its New York correspondent to cable it in full.

The Calcutta Statesman carried the story for its Indian readers.

Freedom of the press surely is in a bad way in New York. Are the people to conclude that the majority of New York editors have joined with Rep. Rankin and Sen. Bilbo in spreading Dixie race theories?

Their action on the Woodward story indicates they are not fighting them.

FBI Silent in Woodard Case

PM New York, N.Y.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington refused to comment over the week end on a statement by the Batesburg, S. C., chief of police that he had told an FBI agent all about the case of Isaac Woodard, Jr., Negro veteran whom he is accused of having blinded, and had been told "to keep quiet about it." Sun. 9-29-46

The police chief, Linwood L. Shull, told an Associated Press reporter that he had reported the incident to the FBI because Woodard was still in his Army uniform when the incident occurred.

Federal Judge George Bell Timmerman in Columbia, S. C., signed an order for a bench warrant against Shull who was expected to come to Columbia voluntarily and post a $2500 bond.

Shull is accused under a criminal information filed by the Department of Justice. It charges him with violating the civil rights of Woodard.

The veteran, who now lives in the Bronx, reported that he had gotten into a row with a bus driver who turned him over to police. He charged that a policeman beat him and gouged out his eyes with a club, blinding him for life.

Shull denied he had beaten, tortured and blinded the combat veteran, but said he did strike him across the face with a blackjack in "self-defense."

Washington Exonerates Aiken, S.C. of Crime

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The director of public relations of the Justice Department, last Tuesday, informed the Aiken Standard and Review newspaper that Aiken, S.C., was exonerated from blame in the assault resulting in the blinding of Isaac Woodard.

This information resulted from efforts on the part of Aiken police and the newspaper to get Washington authorities to disclose the place where the incident took place. Reports by the NNPA News Service say that the crime was committed at Batesburg, S.C.

Woodard Fund Still Rising

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

NEW YORK.—Since our last report, contributions to the Isaac Woodard Trust Fund total $2,118.89. Of this amount, $264 was sent in by readers of the Newspaper P.M. The Call

A letter from one PM contributor is indicative of the feeling of many. Arthur S. Krival, of Columbia, Mo., wrote:

"It is with shame and anger and an immense feeling of ineptitude that I sent this contribution to the Isaac Woodard fund. As in the past, the decent but passive citizen must salve his conscience. But will there be more funds? Will there be other Isaac Woodards (he is hardly our first); and will our self-styled liberal newspapers again rage and indict; and will the rest of us, the decent, passive ones, once more shrug our shoulders in unhappy resignation and reach into our pocketbooks for the only balm we have to offer?" S 9-23-46

Unjust Smear on Aiken

Times & Courier Charleston, S.C.

The name of Aiken, known for so many years among fashionable people of the North as a pleasureground of distinction, has been besmirched by a horrible report that seems to have no foundation in fact. Negro organizations and their friends have spread a story about a negro veteran named Isaac Woodward being beaten and blinded by Aiken police. Official investigation reveals no evidence that the atrocity occurred.

Possibly there is a negro veteran named Woodward who was mistreated, who now even is blinded. If so, it must have happened somewhere else. Aiken people are naturally indignant that their community should be blamed. Sun 8-11-46

Aiken Cleared Of Blinding

The News and Courier Charleston, S.C.

Negro Veteran

Wed. 8-14-46

Aiken, Aug. 13.—(AP): The Aiken Standard and Review said today it had received a telegram from the division of public information of the department of justice in Washington in which the town of Aiken was exonerated from blame in the reported assault of Isaac Woodward, a negro veteran, last February.

The newspaper said the telegram, which was in answer to one it had sent, read:

"On the basis of information received to 'date the location of the assault on Isaac Woodward is not Aiken, South Carolina."

The telegram was signed by Leo M. Cadison, deputy director, division of information.

Since the first report came out of New York stating that Woodward was pulled from an interstate bus by the Aiken police and had his eyes gouged out, the newspaper said it had made every effort to get a statement from authorities in Washington as to where the incident occurred.

It said the first information received was that the incident happened somewhere between Augusta, Ga., and Winnsboro, S. C.

Chief of police J. M. Sprawls said that he and city officials had investigated police records and were confident from the first that Woodward was mistaken in his identity of the South Carolina city.

Sprawls said letters had been received daily denouncing the police department and the city following publication and broadcast of the report.

The Aiken Standard and Review has requested the attorney general's office in Washington for the facts in the case, and has been informed that the incident "took place somewhere between Augusta, Ga., and Winnsboro, S. C." It is supposed to have occurred last February. The negro is alleged to have been taken off a Greyhound bus, beaten and his eyes gouged out. Then he was sentenced to pay a fine of $50 or serve 30 days. Charleston, S.C.

If any prisoner came before a judge in such condition we believe he would have been given medical treatment, and somehow the story would have come to light ere this. Now that it has received nationwide prominence, it behooves anyone having knowledge of it to come forward so that the whole truth may be ascertained.

Pending such verification, The News and Courier is inclined to regard the whole story as propaganda, manufactured out of the whole cloth and spread as a part of the smear campaign against the South.

Aiken and Orson Welles

The News and Courier Charleston, S.C.

The News and Courier rejoices in the acknowledgment from the department of justice that the town of Aiken is not the place where a negro veteran was blinded by police. Whether or not the incident ever actually occurred remains to be proved. The News and Courier has its doubts about the authenticity of the rumor as applied to any community. Thurs. 8-15-46

Unfortunately, the vindication of Aiken's denial of a slanderous charge probably will not reach as many persons as have heard the erroneous report. Among the mediums that spread the rumor most widely was the radio program of Orson Welles. One of the large body of noisy intelligentsia who dip into political matters about which they are not well or soundly informed, Welles dramatized the incident and gave it tremendous currency.

It is easy to see how Aiken people are angry with him and have retaliated by banning his motion picture from their town. But therein, we believe, the Aiken authorities have made a mistake. Because Orson Welles, the radio performer, committed an injustice against the people of Aiken, they should not censor the appearance of Orson Welles, the movie actor, on Aiken theater screens. If the specific picture were reviewed and found objectionable on moral grounds, or because it was likely to incite riot, the ban might be justified. Political censorship of the screen is dangerous, even

Orson Welles Film Banned in Aiken

The News and Courier Charleston, S.C. Wed. 8-14-46

Aiken, Aug. 13.—(U.P.): A motion picture starring Orson Welles has been banned here in retaliation for a recent radio commentary by the actor in which he told how a negro soldier was allegedly blinded by a policeman at Aiken.

Aiken officials have repeatedly denied the negro's charge that he was injured here. They claim to have had the accusation investigated by local, state and general agencies without finding any basis for it.

The Aiken city council banned the picture and ordered posters and broadsides advertising the film burned by police. The council said it was acting following numerous complaints of the Welles broadcast.

POLICE IN BEALE STREET SPECTACLE

Memphis World
Memphis Tenn.
Tuesday 6-4-46

Beale streeters last Thursday afternoon looked down upon a pool of blood in front of the New Daisy Theatre and wondered whether or not Ben Graham, 1671 Victory St., would survive the terrific beating administered him by police officers. When picked up by ambulance drivers for R. S. Lewis Funeral Home, the unconscious man's head was almost twice its normal size .. his hands reportedly mangled, and his body smarting from jabs and blows the officers gave him after he had been knocked down on the sidewalks, witnesses told this publication.

Graham, according to reports, had gone into the New Daisy theatre in a drunken manner. He was ousted from the place and upon reaching the streets two officers took him into custody. When Graham became defiant in his attitude, the policemen proceeded to give him a beating. Witnesses declared one used a black jack on the intoxicated man.

There were mumblings on part of the crowd regarding the manner in which the man was handled by the officers long after he had been carried to John Gaston Hospital and placed in a prison ward. Hospital attaches said that Graham's condition was fine when the World went to press.

Attorney Demands Clark Prosecute Tenn. Thugs

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Wed. 11-20-46

Special to the Daily Worker

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 19.—The following telegram was sent today to U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark by Thurgood Marshall, general counsel for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People:

"Last night after leaving Columbia, Tenn., where we secured acquittal of one of two Negroes charged with crimes growing out of February disturbances there, lawyers, including myself, were stopped outside Columbia in the night by three carloads of officers, including deputy sheriffs, city policemen, constables and highway patrolmen.

"The alleged purpose was to search the car for whiskey. When no whiskey was found we were stopped by the same officials two more times and on the last occasion I was placed under arrest for driving while drunk and returned to Columbia.

"The magistrate refused to place me in jail after examining me and finding I was completely sober. This type of intimidation of defense lawyers charged with the duty of defending persons charged with crime cannot go unnoticed. Therefore, I demand immediate investigation and criminal charges against the officers participating in last night's outrage. The three lawyers were Z. Alexander Looby, Maurice Weaver and myself."

Maurice Weaver, lone white defense attorney in the Columbia cases, announced he would also demand action against the raiding officers for attempts to illegally intimidate Harry Raymond, Daily Worker corespondent, who was riding in the car with the lawyers bound for Nashville. Weaver charged Raymond, newspaperman assigned to cover the Columbia trial, was held captive by officers on the dark highway along with the lawyers in violation of constitutional rights of freedom of the press.

Commenting on the incident, Weaver declared:

"Mr. Raymond was with us when we were stopped and also went with me when I appeared before Magistrate J. J. Pouge to demand the immediate release of Mr. Marshall. He knows the whole story of the outrageous, un-democratic and tyrannical procedure. Mr. Raymond stood alone by my side, surrounded by armed thugs, in the Magistrate's office outrageously demanding the release of Mr. Marshall."

Police Brutality On Increase; Mis-treat Negroes On Beale St.

World Memphis Tennessee Tues.
Tues. 8-20-46

Police officers in the Beale St. area have quickened the tempo in their use of pistols, billets, and black jacks when it comes to enforcing the law against Negroes. The most recent shooting involved Patrolmen L. W. Deason, who fired a bullet into the stomach of Sam Hines, 32, Sunday night, August 11th. His Chief, Carroll Seabrook, exonerated him.

Hines according to reports at this writing, was in critical condition in the prison ward at John Gaston hospital.

The officers, Deason and Allen Vaughnan, reported that they stopped Hines for questioning Sunday night on St. Paul Avenue when they saw him with a bundle of clothing. They began searching the man and during the process, he pulled a gun and the officer drew his gun and fired from the hip. The bullet struck Hines in the stomach.

Using profane language, two police officers beat a Negro man into unconsciousness in font of the New Daisy Theatre Friday afternoon according to several witnesses. The man was struck back of the head, kicked, slapped, called a "Black...." and then pushed into the Squad Car as hundreds of Negroes looked....in silent disgust.

Other reports of police brutality have involved officers in Handy's Square.

16d 1946 Texas

Galveston Man Is Shot By Local Detective; Versions Of Fray Differ

The Informer Houston, Texas Sat. 8-17-46

GALVESTON — Buster Landrum, Galveston detective, Saturday shot Cedric Hooper, who the detective alleged resisted arrest wher Landrum went to 2820 Q½ (rear) where a family quarrel was in progress. Mr. Hooper and his wife denied that Landrum's account true and alleged that Hooper was assaulted by the officer without any justification.

Detective Landrum said that he went to 28th and Q in response to a radio call to investigate a disturbance. "Hooper was having a quarrel with his wife and when I attempted to arrest him he struck at me and attempted to snatch my gun," Landrum said. He shot the man in the side.

Hooper Unable To Talk

When interviewed by an Informer representative at John Sealy hospital, Cedric Hooper said talking made his wound bleed and he could feel the blood running from the wound He gave his wife's address and suggested that she be talked to.

When interviewed, Mrs. Hooper said that she and her husband had a quarrel and it had been settled and they were on their way home in a taxicab when they were stopped on 29th street between P and Q½ by Detective Landrum who wanted to know what was going on

Mr Hooper told Mr. Landrum nothing was wrong, only he and his wife had an argument but it was settled and they were going home. Detective Landrum told the couple to come and go to the police station with him. Hooper wanted to know why they had to go to the police station. Landrum, according to Mrs. Hooper, then told her husband, "You aren't telling me I'm telling you and come on before I shoot you."

The couple then left the cab, the wife said Hooper still wanted to know why they must go to the police station.

Mrs. Hooper said that Landrum told her husband that he was tired fooling with him and knocked him down According to her story, when Hooper got up from the ground, Landrum shot him in the side. When this account was read to Mr. Hooper he said that it was the correct story of what had happened

Detective Landrum giving his version of the shooting told Informer representative that he was answering the call and as his police car entered the alley there he saw two people getting in a cab and starting away. He stopped the cab and walked to it and saw Mrs. Hooper with her mouth and nose bleeding. He asked her what happened and she said her husband jumped on her. He told her to get in his car and he walked to the other side of the cab and told Cedric Hooper to get out he was going to the station. Then Landrum said Hooper cursed him and told him his badge didn't mean anything and tried to pull away. Landrum said he told him to cut out the foolishness an let's go. According to Landrum's story Hooper got out of the cab and reached for his gun twice. The third time he reached for his gun Landrum said he took his gun out to keep him from getting it and while they were tussling Hooper was shot in the side. Then he said the ambulance was so long in coming that he proceeded to the hospital under motorcycle escort with the cab driver sitting in the car and holding Hooper. Sat. 8-17-46

Robert Smith, the taxi driver, was interviewed and stated that the cab was stopped as has been related. Landrum pulled his gun and Cedric Hooper said that there was no point in going to the police station they could settle it among themselves. Smith said he got out of the cab and walked to the front of it. Hooper got out and stood on the curb holding on to the cab. Then Buster Landrum knocked him down. According to Smith Hooper said, "You hit me; you just as well shoot me." Landrum then pulled his gun and grasped it if to hit Hooper with the butt, but evidently changed his mind and put it back in its holster. Smith said that he then got back in the car and heard the shot. According to Smith up to this time Hooper had not attempted to strike or to tussle with Landrum. Landrum told Smith to get in the police car to go to the hospital. Smith said he protested leaving his cab and Landrum told him that he was the law. Smith says he then obeyed Landrum because he was afraid that he would shoot him. So Smith says that he spent two hours about the hospital without notifying the company or being able to return to his taxi. The Informer Houston Tex

Friday 13th Brings Death To Negro, Life To Another

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.
Fri. 12-13-46

A Negro convicted of burglary escaped death in the electric chair late yesterday, but another condemned for rape lost his fight for life and was executed shortly after midnight—on Friday the 13th.

Gov. Chauncey Sparks, who heard appeals for clemency from both men yesterday, announced several hours later that he had commuted the sentence of John Underwood, of Prattville, Ala., to life imprisonment.

He refused to interfere, however, with the sentence imposed by two juries on Johnnie B. Smith, of Tuscaloosa County on conviction of raping a middle-aged white woman.

Smith was brought into the death chamber at 12:04 a.m. today. Asked if he had any statement to make and if he confessed the crime for which he was about to die, he first hesitated and then flatly denied his guilt. The first shock was administered at 12:09, the second at 12:11, and he was pronounced dead at 12:13.

Although the governor made no statement in making known his decision, attorneys for Underwood argued at the hearing that the death penalty would be "excessive" even though the State charged the Negro attempted to rape a white woman during commission of the alleged nighttime burglary. Under Alabama law, first degree burglary is a capital offense.

Denies Charge

Underwood denied any connection with the affair and his lawyers attempted to bring into the hearing the question of identification. The governor ruled that out, however, on the grounds it had been passed on by the trial jury and the State Supreme Court.

One of the attorneys, A. D. Redden, of Elmore County, argued, too, that public sentiment was "very strong" as a result of the alleged attempted rape, and declared:

"Regardless of what Negro had been pointed out by the victim as her attacker, he would have been in the same spot as Underwood is today."

The governor declined to save the life of Smith despite an impassioned appeal by the condemned man's lawyer, who asserted that "when a Negro is charged with raping a white woman, all the white woman has to do is testify, and you're helpless." Advertiser

Loses Votes

The lawyer, former State Representative E. L. Dodson, of Tuscaloosa, told the governor he seriously doubted "that the crime was committed," and expressed belief he had lost "hundreds of votes" in his unsuccessful bid for reelection to the Legislature this year because "I defended this boy." Montgomery, Ala.

Dodson voiced a conviction that the Negro was innocent, and that "if he had been a white man there is no doubt he would have been acquitted." Fri. 12-13-46

The attorney protested that the trial jury which convicted Smith the second time—his first trial was reversed by the State Supreme Court—was under "tremendous influence" because of the presence in the courtroom of 24 State highway patrolmen "armed to the teeth."

He said the patrolmen were not needed because there had been no violence or threat of trouble, and even if they had been "they shouldn't have been exhibited to the jury."

Dodson also declared the defendant's constitutional rights were abridged when the circuit solicitor questioned him in jail and "used this evidence against him," despite the fact no one was present to represent him during the jail inquiry.

After Smith's first trial, the Supreme Court reversed the jury's death verdict on the grounds the Negro had been forced to stand up in the courtroom and identify himself. This, the tribuanl ruled, had the effect of the defendant giving evidence against himself.

Dodson opened his defense at today's hearing by remarking that he had objected from the start to serving as court-appointed counsel "and if it ever happens again I intend to test the power of the court to order me to accept."

He said he was trying his utmost to see that the Negro got "justice so I can go home and sleep tonight."

Meanwhile, a check of the governor's records showed that during the four years of his administration he has spared the lives of 14 condenmned men who have faced him and has sent 20 to the chair. No others are scheduled to die until after Sparks leaves office on Jan. 20.

Lincoln Alibi Fails To Win Emancipation From Prison

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.
Thurs. 11-21-46

By GEOFFREY BIRT

The story of a grocer who was shot at, seriously wounded, and robbed of about $250, and an 18-year-old Negro, who was born on Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary, occupied the attentions of the Circuit Court during most of yesterday.

On trial for the crime was Alfred Smith, the Negro, while the grocer victim was Samuel Miller, 712 South Hall Street, white man. Indicted with Smith was a second Negro, James Carter, whose whereabouts the police have not yet ascertained. The case was heard before Judge Eugene Carter.

Miller testified that shortly after 7 p.m. Feb. 12, of this year, immediately after he had closed his store for the day, two Negroes came in, asked for food, and offered a $10 bill. They then pulled a gun on him and, Miller claimed, said, "This is a stick up." He hastily pushed a bag containing the day's takings of $250 towards them to save his life, but they fired at him from two feet away. The bullet entered his mouth and out the back of his neck. He ran to the door crying for help, subsequently became unconscious, and was taken to a hospital.

Mistaken Identity

Ralph Ghent, attorney for the defendant, attempted to prove mistaken identity, the impossibility of Smith being at the store at the time the crime was said to have been committed, and disclosed a discrepancy in the time previous evidence had said the robbery occurred.

Whereas Miller asserted that he had been robbed after 7 p.m., a police report made by detectives who first investigated the case, and which was written at police headquarters on their return from these investigations, was timed at 6:50 p.m. Ghent submitted that the description of the robbers given originally by Miller to the police bore little resemblance to the defendant. Furthermore, the attorney drew from Smith's mother, in cross-examination, the fact that the day on which the robbery and shooting occurred, the defendant spent the evening at home. This she said she could remember because it was Smith's birthday—"the same day as Abraham Lincoln's."

Seibels Differs

Solicitor W. T. Seibels demonstrated, however, that Miller had unhesitatingly rejected a series of suspects produced for identification at various times, and had most definitely identified the defendant when he first saw him in a line of prisoners. Seibels was not impressed by the "Abraham Lincoln" alibi, and disposed of the time element. He said that Miller, or any juryman, who had had a gun thrust in his face for a minute or so—or even seconds—would remember the face behind the gun. The impression would be "burnt into the mind forever" and the jury had heard how consistently and certainly, and had seen for themselves, how surely Miller remembered the defendant. The prosecution also produced a Negro juvenile delinquent, who testified that Carter, the absent Negro, had told him of the shooting in the presence of Smith. The jury found Smith guilty, and sentenced him to 15 years in the penitentiary.

The Advertiser **Uses Mop**

O. G. Goodwin, white man, was sentenced to 10 years for beating with a mop his mother-in-law, Rebecca Patty, who subsequently died at Wetumpka. Goodwin had been indicted on a charge of first degree murder. The defense offered to accept a sentence of 10 years for murder in the second degree. Seibels agreed, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly. Montgomery Ala

Goodwin, who had sat with legs crossed, chewing gun, while the lawyers discussed his case, stood to rigid attention before the jury during the sentence, and murmured a polite thanks with a nod of his head, at the end.

Lenda Glinn, Negro, charged with the robbery of $400 from a cash register at the Blue Goose cafe, North Montgomery, and was caught in the act, admitted guilt, and was given 10 years.

Wilson Merrill, Negro, indicted on a charge of first degree murder, following arrest after a Negro fight, was given 15 years for second degree murder, after entering a plea of guilty. Thurs. 11-21-46

Preliminary to the day's hearings, there was some confusion on account of the non-appearance in court of E. C. Howard, of Tuskegee, subpoenaed as a material witness in the State of Alabama versus Alfred Smith case. The witness was said to have gone duck shooting. Judge Carter and Solicitor Seibels agreed to accept an affidavit of his evidence to be admitted to the records of the trial in his absence.

SPARKS REFUSES EXECUTION HALT

Birmingham Age-Herald

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 24—(AP)—Gov. Chauncey Sparks late today denied clemency to two teen-age Negro slayers, leaving one to die in Kilby Prison's electric chair early tomorrow morning and the other next week. 1-25-46

The governor signed death warrants ordering the execution of 17-year-old Ernest Johnson early tomorrow morning and his 19-year-old companion, Richard Brown, next Friday. They were convicted in Hale County of killing Jack Walton, operator of a 1,000-acre Black Belt plantation.

Attorneys seeking mercy for the youths told Gov. Sparks at a hearing this morning that the Negroes were mentally incapable of telling right from wrong. Ala.

The same viewpoint, insofar as Brown was concerned, was expressed by Supt. J. R. Wingfield of the Mount Meigs Reformatory, where the older of the two defendants once was committed. Wingfield said Brown had the mental age of a 7-year-old boy.

The governor commented, however, that the planning of Walton's death, and hiding of his body in the Warrior River by sinking it in a boat, did not appear to him as the work of a child.

The bullet-riddled body of Walton was recovered from the river last March. The 63-year-old farmer operated the plantation for his brother-in-law, Dr. E. D. Dunlap, Lawton, Okla., and also engaged extensively in cattle raising.

At the hearing today, the Negroes admitted the killing, but blamed each other for its conception.

COURT SETS ASIDE DEATH SENTENCE

Birmingham Age-Herald

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 24—(AP)—Conviction of a Negro sentenced to death for criminal attack was set aside by the Alabama Supreme Court today on the grounds that the defendant's constitutional rights were violated by making him stand up in court.

The high tribunal at the same time affirmed the death sentence imposed on a Jefferson County white man for murder. 1-25-46

The court ordered a new trial for Johnnie B. Smith, Tuscaloosa Negro condemned to die for criminally attacking a white woman. Justice A. B. Foster in his decision said that during the trial the Negro was told by the prosecutor on several occasions to stand so witnesses could "see him better for the purposes of identification."

Justice Foster held that this violated his right not to be compelled to give evidence against himself.

Two Negroes To Plead For Clemency Together

Although they are scheduled to die a week apart, two Negroes convicted of murder will appeal to Gov. Sparks for clemency at the same time.

The Governor's office said Monday hearings would be held Jan. 24 for Richard Brown, 19, and Ernest Johnson, 17, both of whom are under death sentence for the killing of Jack Wilson, Hale County plantation operator.

When the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed their convictions, it acted separately in the two cases, and fixed separate execution dates, Johnson's for Jan. 25 and Brown's for Feb. 1.

The Governor subsequently set Brown's clemency hearing for Jan. 31, but later moved it up one week and will hear it simultaneously with Johnson's.

CONDEMNED MAN CHANGES STORY

Birmingham Age-Herald

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 16—(AP)—With less than 36 hours remaining before he is scheduled to die in the electric chair, a Negro who officers said repeatedly confessed killing a white girl suddenly changed his story today and blamed a white man, but refused to identify, him.

Ala.

Peter Paul Hall of Eufaula, Ala., told Gov. Chauncey Sparks at a clemency hearing that "if I tell who killed her he'll go and kill some of my people." 1-17-46

Hall was convicted at Eufaula last July of drowning Ethel Luck, 18-year-old cotton mill worker. Eight officers, including Eufaula Police Chief H. L. McCullohs and Barbour County Sheriff Phil D. Greene, testified during the trial that the Negro had confessed.

At the hearing today, two prison officials also told the governor Hall had admitted the slaying in their presence, and Solicitor A. S. Borders said he had confessed "repeatedly and freely."

Admission Is Voluntary

Deputy Warden Carl Williams of Kilby Prison related that Hall in his presence admitted "the whole thing voluntarily." W. H. Swearingen, prison chaplain, told the governor the same story and added, "there is no doubt in my mind of his guilt."

Both Williams and the chaplain said they had talked with the Negro in numerous occasions and that today was the first time they heard him speak of a "white man" in the case.

Hall first told the governor one white man took the Luck girl in a car, then said lated it was "two cars of white men."

Although he insisted he knew the identity of the man who killed the girl, he refused to name him, even in the privacy of the governor's office. Gov. Sparks promised a reprieve and an investigation if Hall would name the man to whom he referred, but still the Negro said "no." 1-17-46

Hall said he had told the story to a "colored lawyer" who visited him in the death cell, but Deputy Warden Williams and Chaplain Swearingen declared no Negro attorney had talked to the condemned man. They said to do so he would have had to obtain permission from the prison office and a guard would have accompanied him. 1-17-46

The governor's office said after the hearing that no decision on the clemency appeal would be announced until tomorrow. The Negro is scheduled to go to the chair shortly after midnight tomorrow night.

YOUTHFUL SLAYER IS ELECTROCUTED

Age-Herald

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 25—(AP)—A 17-year-old Negro died in Kilby Prison's electric chair early today after asking forgiveness for killing an elderly Black Belt plantation operator.

Boyish-looking Ernest Johnson was strapped in the chair at 12:05 a.m., and nine minutes later was declared dead.

He was one of two Negroes sentenced to death for the slaying of Jack T. Walton, 63, of Hale County.

As Johnson went to his death, the other sentenced defendant, Richard Brown, 19, waited in the death cell. Brown is scheduled to die next Friday. Gov. Chauncey Sparks has denied executive clemency for him.

At a clemency hearing yesterday attorneys for the two Negroes said the pair was mentally incapable of telling right from wrong.

Hall Electrocuted For Girl's Death

Montgomery Advertiser

Eufaula Negro Admits Guilt In Chair

Ala.

Peter Hall, Eufaula Negro, died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison at 12:15 a.m. today for the slaying of Ethel Luck, 18-year-old white girl. Just before the current was applied Hall, in response to a question, admitted that he was responsible for the girl's death. Wednesday, in a talk with the governor, he said "a white man," whom he declined to identify, had committed the crime. 1-18-46

Gov. Sparks late yesterday denied Hall's clemency plea because, he said, "I am convinced of his guilt."

Hall was convicted last July of drowning the 18-year-old girl after seizing her while she was on her way home from work at a cotton mill. He also was indicted for rape but was not tried on that charge. 1-18-46

The Luck girl's body was found in a creek about 24 hours after she disappeared July 4, her birthday. At the trial, Sheriff Phil D. Greene, of Barbour County, and other officers testified that Hall had admitted both assaulting and drowning the girl.

SLAYING CONFESSED BEFORE EXECUTION

Birmingham Age-Herald

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 18—(AP)—A Negro confessed after he had been strapped in Alabama's electric chair early today that he had killed the young white girl of whose death he had been convicted.

Peter Paul Hall answered "yes" when Chaplain W. H. Swearengen of Kilby Prison asked "Did you kill her?" 1-19-46

At a clemency hearing Wednesday before Gov. Chauncey Sparks, the Negro had denied any connection with the slaying of 18-year-old Ethel Luck. Alabama

Hall was convicted last July of drowning a white girl after seizing her while she was on her way from work at a cotton mill. Hall also was indicted for criminal attack, but was not tried on that charge.

After being strapped in the electric chair at 12:10 a.m., the Negro made no comment except to admit his guilt. He was pronounced dead at 12:15 a.m.

Ernest Johnson Dies For Slaying

Montgomery Advertiser

Death Of Companion Set For Next Week

Alabama

1-25-46

Ernest Johnson, 17-year-old Negro, died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison at 12:14 a.m. today for the slaying of Jack T. Walton, Hale County plantation owner, last March. Just before the switch was thrown Johnson remarked, "I hope you all forgive me!"

Late yesterday Gov. Sparks denied clemency to Johnson and Richard Brown, 17-year-old Negro, also convicted in the same case.

Attorneys seeking mercy for the youths told Gov. Sparks at a hearing this morning that the Negroes were mentally incapable of telling right from wrong.

The same viewpoint, insofar as Brown was concerned, was expressed by Supt. J. R. Wingfield of the Mount Meigs reformatory, where the older of the two defendants once was committed. Wingfield said Brown had the mental age of a 7-year-old boy.

The Governor commented, however, that the planning of Walton's death, and hiding of his body in the Warrior River by sinking it in a boat, did not appear to him as the work of a child. 1-25-46

The bullet-riddled body of Walton was recovered from the river last March. The 63-year-old farmer operated the plantation for his brother-in-law, Dr. E. D. Dunlay of Lawton, Okla., and also engaged extensively in cattle raising.

At the hearing [illegible], the Negroes admitted the killing, but blamed each other for its conception.

Chair Takes Life Of Walton Slayer

Montgomery Advertiser

Negro Is Baptized In Pool At Kilby

2-1-46

Nineteen-year-old Richard Brown died in the electric chair at Kilby, Prison early today for the slaying last February of Jack T. Walton, cattle raiser and plantation operator of Hale County, Ala.

The young Negro, who was baptized yesterday in an outdoor pool at the prison, was calm as he walked to the electric chair. He was strapped into the chair at 12:06 a.m. (CST) and was pronounced dead eight minutes later.

Brown was one of two Negroes convicted of the slaying of the 63-year-old cattleman. Ernest Johnson, 17, the other, paid with his life in the electric chair a week ago. 2-1-46

Fellow convicts, prison officials and reporters watched silently as 19-year-old Richard Brown was immersed in the knee-deep water by a Negro preacher, Rev. Jesse T. Burson, pastor of Montgomery's Church of Christ.

Then, water dripping from his white prison shirt and trousers, the stocky convicted killer walked slowly back to his cell and changed into dry clothing to wait the remaining 10 hours until he began his walk to the chair.

Rev. Burson said the condemned Negro requested the baptism.

Two Await Execution

Birmingham Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 25—(AP)—Unless Gov. Chauncey Sparks intervenes, two Negro murderers will die in the electric chair early tomorrow Birmingham News

They are Lester Wingard and Fred Hicks. Wingard was convicted of killing an elderly white man, Herbert Athey, at Ramer. He waylaid Athey as he walked along a street. Mont. 4-25-46

Hicks was sentenced to death for the killing two years ago of a Negro woman in Hale County.

Doomed Man Battles Guards in Death Cell

If you're squeamish, don't read this one. It concerns Lodies Joe Mincey, 39, a huge, shambling hulk of a man who didn't want to die in the electric chair at Montgomery, Ala. When guards went to the death cell in State Prison they found the lock stuffed with chewed paper, and from the inside, stoutly tied with a tangle of torn bed sheets. They climbed up to peer through the transom and were drenched with buckets of water from the cell toilet. They cut the He whirled in his tracks and yelled lock away with a blow-torch and like an animal. Two guards seized two chaplains went in. Mincey, him but he brushed them off. the death chamber and strapped convicted of the murder of a crip- Seven guards rushed him into pled man, shuffled out whimpering flung them aside. A dozen the chair. He was given between the two men. spectators watched in horror for his chance to make a last statement but he only stared ahead, Warden He walked his last mile to the Carl Williams raised a hand and 15 minutes while fists and night oven-like death chamber, but the sticks whirled. Silent, Mincey lashed with backed the electrician threw the switch. The execution of Lodies Joe Mincey weakened under had been delayed two hours.

'A Necessary End—'

Lodies Joe Mincy fought with a fury, not once but twice, to try to keep from dying. Convicted of the slaying of a crippled man, he found himself, like others who had made the dreary journey to the death house, at the penultimate place of pause in the one-way street of man's law and man's justice. What thoughts he had as he waited out the days and nights until the appointed hour drew near only Lodies Joe Mincy and his God now know.

It is an eerie light which shines on our civilization, as men and women in the comfort of their homes, seated in overstuffed chairs, with children playing on the floor, perhaps with a radio comedian booming out his efforts, read in their newspaper of this man's bitter, heart-smashing fight to keep from dying.

Mincy first tied bedsheets around the door of a prison cell in such a manner that it was impossible for guards to open the door. He further imprisoned himself, he thought for his own slight safety. If it gained him nothing in the end, he tricked his way into almost exactly one more hour of breathing—breathing, for it cannot be called life he had in that hour. What greater fears did he experience, what more horrible contortions did his imagination contrive and nurture?

Prison officials and a state highway patrolman at the end of an hour succeeded in getting Mincy to open the door, and he walked quietly out to change clothing, having doused himself and others by throwing water to keep them away from the barred cell door. But as he began "the last mile" walk to the electric chair, his mind could not stand the strain. Again he reverted to the first and last call of man—to live—and he fought bitterly and with a fury to halt the measured progress to the instrument which causes men to go to their deaths, not standing, not kneeling, not lying down—but sitting. He fought with seven men who finally strapped him in the chair. He was pronounced dead at 1:07 a.m., while most of the state of Alabama slept the sweet living sleep of freedom—perhaps a freedom often not fully appreciated, certainly not appreciated as Lodies Joe Mincy would have appreciated it.

This man now dead doubtless never read Shakespeare, but even if he did, it is doubtful he remembered much of a man who wrote feelingly of death, though he himself died quietly.

"It seems to me most strange that men
should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come."

Lodies Joe Mincy could not accept the fact that other men were telling him that he must die.

TROY NEGRO TO DIE FOR SLAYING MAN

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 11—(AP)—Lodies Joe Mincey, 30-year-old Troy, Ala., Negro, must die in the electric chair May 31 for the killing of a young white man, the Alabama Supreme Court decreed today.

The court affirmed the death sentence passed on Mincey for the death of Jimmy John Hansen, whose body was found in Troy last Aug. 25.

Court records showed the Negro confessed when he was captured in Birmingham two days later and told of taking $3 from the slain man's wallet.

Electrocution At Kilby Delayed As Troy Negro Barricades Cell Door

Lodies Joe Mincey, of Troy, Ala., convicted Negro slayer, delayed his execution at Kilby Prison for more than an hour this morning by barricading his cell door with five sheets tied snugly around grill-work which cannot be reached from the outside.

Shortly after 1 a.m., after ignoring the pleas of Prison Chaplain W. B. Swearingen, W. S. Furlow, chief deputy sheriff of Pike County, and Maj. Leonard Van Egmond, of the Salvation Army, the Negro opened the door when Highway Patrolman Otto Dees promised he would not be hurt on the way to the chair.

Prior to that the Negro drenched everyone who approached his cell with large quantities of water.

He walked to the chair without further protest but, on viewing the lethal device, put up a terrific struggle. Seven men were required to strap him to the seat.

Major Van Egmond said he had witnessed 70 executions in 15 years but never had seen "anything like this."

The Negro was pronounced dead at 1:07 a.m.

Earlier the Negro's pleas to "spare me life" failed to win clemency from Gov. Chauncey Sparks.

Protesting that he was unable to explain his motive for the self-confessed killing of a white man, Lodies Joe Mincey of Troy, Ala., begged the Governor for mercy, but in vain.

"I don't know what was the matter with me," the 30-year-old Negro said when Gov. Sparks asked him why he killed Jimmy John Hansen at Troy last August in a robbery which netted him $3.

Solicitor J. Alex Huey, however, argued that the Negro was "obviously" motivated by robbery when he attacked his crippled victim with a knife and left his body lying near railroad tracks in Troy.

Negro Who Beat Mrs. Perry Gets 20-Year Prison Term

Entering a plea of guilty before Judge Eugene Carter, in the Circuit Court yesterday, on a charge of assaulting Mrs. Cecil Perry, at her residence near Cramton Bowl early this month, with intent to murder, James D. Marks, Negro, was given the maximum sentence of 20 years in the penitentiary.

Judge Carter further sentenced Marks to four additional years' imprisonment on two charges of grand larceny, to which the Negro had previously pleaded guilty.

Sentencing Marks, Judge Carter, speaking with great severity, said: "It is by the grace of God that you did not kill this woman. By your crime, and for the first time for a long while past in this community, you caused our women to fear and lock their doors. Therefore, I give you the maximum penalty that I am allowed to give, which is 20 years in the penitentiary. I sentence you also to two years on the first charge of larceny, and two further years, on the second charge, making four years in all, to be commenced on the completion of your 20 years imprisonment, and making 24 years imprisonment in all."

Victim's Husband

Present in court, to hear the sentence, was Cecil Perry, the victim's husband. Seated at the rear of the courtroom, was Mark's sister, Katie.

Marks is a 24-year-old light complexioned Negro. Throughout the proceedings he appeared indifferent, and laughed when Sheriff Mosely placed the handcuffs on him at the end of the hearing.

It can now be revealed that Marks entered a plea of guilty to the assault to murder charge when originally arraigned, but the court refused to accept the plea, pending medical reports on Mrs. Perry's condition.

When two white men, two Negro men and two Negro women, were sentenced and placed on probation Judge Carter particularly warned them against any attempt at leaving the state without proper authority.

"The sentence I have given you," said the judge, "will hang over you during your probationary period, like the sword of Damocles (an ancient Syracusian who was seated at a banquet beneath a sword suspended above his head by a single hair.) This is your last chance. The first time you violate probation I shall revoke it, and your sentence will go into effect.

"You cannot leave Alabama without permission."

He stressed "You must make your reports regularly to the probationary officer; associate with a good class of citizens and avoid evil companions. Your disposition differs only from those at Kilby in so far as you work under the direction of a probationary officer instead of a warden; you are not behind walls, and are free in the evenings.

80 of 100

"We are proud of our probation laws, and so far they have proved 80 per cent successful. Become members of the 80 per cent and not of the unfortunate 20 per cent.

"Mr. Lindsey, our probationary officer, is the best in the State, and a man who is "on the ball."

Asked later for comment, J. E. Lindsey, probation officer, said that there was widespread belief that if a parolee, or probationer, deciding to break his parole or probation, and succeeded in crossing the State line, he could not be brought back. This had never been the case, but formerly it had been admittedly difficult to get such an escape back.

Recently, nowever, legislation had been passed, amending the State laws on probation, which now allowed officers to be sent anywhere, at State's expense, to bring back offenders."

Lindsey revealed that two probationers had been brought back this month—one from Michigan, and one from Savannah, Ga.

Asked how many parolees and probationers there were in his charge, Lindsey said "457 active and inactive. The inactive being those specially released from reporting, or delinquent."

Lindsey showed records testifying less than 20 per cent unsuccessful probation cases, which he considered justified the system of giving probation where, in the Judge's opinion, there was a reasonable chance to expect future good conduct from first offenders.

Lindsey thought, however, that insufficient attention had been drawn publicly to the fact that probationary offenders "skipping the State lines were easily able to be brought back these days."

Working with Lindsey, is a woman probation officer, Mrs. Elaine Fischesser.

Court Action Stays Walk Of Two Toward Chair

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Sept. 12—Two Negroes scheduled to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison early tomorrow morning had a new lease on life today.

The State Supreme Court has withdrawn the death warrants of Johnny B. Smith, convicted of rape in Tuscaloosa County, and John Underwood, sentenced to electric chair for first degree murder in Autauga County.

The court called back the warrants, pending action of applications for rehearing, so neither of the Negroes will go to the chair tomorrow.

Governor Will Hear Pleas Of Two Negroes Sentenced To Death

A clemency hearing before Gov. Chauncey Sparks is scheduled today for two condemned Negroes, one of whom won a new trial because he was compelled to stand up in court and identify himself.

The pair—Johnnie B. Smith of Tuscaloosa and John Underwood of Autauga County — were to have been electrocuted Dec. 6 but were granted a week's reprieve by Gov. Sparks before he left to attend the Southern Governor's conference at Miami.

Unless Gov. Sparks intervenes they are to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair shortly after midnight Thursday.

A petition with more than 800 signers has been presented the governor asking him to spare the life of Underwood who received the death penalty for first degree burglary of a house in Prattville, a capital offense in Alabama.

During his trial the State presented testimony to show the alleged burglary was committed during an attempt to rape a 205-pound white woman.

Smith has been twice convicted and sentenced to death on a charge of raping a middle-aged white woman in Tuscaloosa County. The first conviction in March, 1945, was reversed and a new trial ordered by the Supreme Court on grounds his constitutional rights were violated when he was compelled to stand up in the courtroom.

Upon his second conviction Feb. 21 this year, the death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court which later denied a petition of rehearing.

Scottsboro Traditions

Daily Worker New York, N. Y.

THEY have freed another Scottsboro boy, Clarence Norris. Only one of the famous original nine, Haywood Patterson, remains to be freed.

Scottsboro! An obscure name of an obscure town in Alabama. Nine Negro boys were seized. They were kids, really, ranging in age from 12 to 18. But, someone yelled "attempted rape" because of a fight they had on a freight train with some tough yeggs. Mon. 9-30-46

But there were Communists nearby in Alabama.

And the murder of these innocent kids did not happen because of that.

Defying the threats of the entire southern oligarchy, the Communists proceeded to start a wave of worldwide protest in which many progressives courageously joined. Some of the boys were later freed.

The fight goes on. New Scottsboros face us. The Monroe, Ga., killings, the Tennessee raids and the Freeport killings show that the enemy still rides roughshod over the Negro people.

Scottsboro showed they can be licked. Its traditions inspire us today.

Scottsboro Negro Returned To Kilby

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Andy Wright, Negro, who figured prominently in the Scottsboro case, was returned to Kilby Prison Monday for violating his parole, according to reports from the State Parole office.

Mrs. Elaine Fishchesser, assisted by J. E. Lindsey, handled the case for the State.

Wright was convicted of rape and sentenced to serve a term of 99 years on July 21, 1937. He was granted a parole Jan. 5, 1944.

The report of parole officers stated that the Negro left the State recently without having obtained permission from authorities. Tues. 10-22-46

A warrant was sworn out for his arrest several days ago and when he appeared at the parole office in City Hall Monday he was arrested and returned to the prison.

The Negro was one of the nine Negroes indicted in rape case 15 years ago and one of only five given prison terms after six years of court appeal which began when eight of the nine were given the death penalty in the first trial.

Four of the Negroes, including Wright, were finally convicted of rape; a fifth was sentenced to prison for assaulting a deputy sheriff, and the other four were acquitted.

Wright was returned to prison less than a month after another Scottsboro Negro, Clarence Norris, left on parole.

Pickets Get 1 Year; Slayer Goes Scotfree

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Tue. 3/26/46



MRS. ELLA MAY CAMPBELL, widow of union organizer, Walter Campbell, slain near a Little Rock, Ark., picket line, Dec. 26, 1945, and five-year-old Barbara Anita, who still asks when her daddy is coming home. Tue. 3.26.46

Special to the Daily Worker

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 25.—It's dangerous to organize in unions to defend yourself against a 12-hour day at straight time and 50 cents an hour. It's dangerous, that is, if you live in Little Rock, Ark., and happen to be a Negro worker.

One man who tried to lead a fight against these conditions was stabbed to death on Dec. 26, 1945.

He was Walter Campbell, Negro union organizer. Five other union men were arrested and placed under bond of $1,000 to $2,500.

Despite the fact that the confessed slayer walks out scott free, the Second Division of the Circuit Court here on March 19 sentenced three strikers to the penitentiary for one year for walking on a picket line.

The defendants, Roy Cole, Louis Jones and Jesse Bear are members of Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, CIO, Local 98. They were indicted under the Arkansas "Anti-Violence" law. They are on strike at the Southern Cotton Oil Co. Other strikers indicted under the same law will be tried at the next term of court.

Their union will appeal the Circuit Court's verdict, it was announced by the Southern Cotton Oil Co. Strikers Defense Committee today.

Even the **Arkansas Gazette**, local anti-labor newspaper, observed that the prosecution was hard pressed to make a case, until Judge Lawrence C. Austin instructed the jury that the pickets could be found guilty if they aided or assisted or just stood idly by while violence occurred in connection with the strike.

Testimony at the trial revealed that the defendant pickets were two blocks away when Walter Campbell, union member, was killed by Otha Williams, scab.

Six members of the jury were people whose names appeared in an open letter to President Truman demanding repeal of the National Labar Relations Act. The others were also Little Rock business men. Not one worker, not one Negro was on the jury—although all six of the defendants were workers and Negroes. All motions to quash the indictments were overruled by the judge without reading them.

Following the verdict, a conference by local CIO representatives agreed to intensify organizational activity in Arkansas, in answer to the labor-baiters.

"There can be no doubt but that we will win this case upon appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court or the U. S. Supreme Court," said Lindsey Walden, general counsel for the CIO Oil Workers Union who is assisting on the case. He added that he had "never before tried a case where a judge and jury were so prejudiced and committed so many reversible errors."

The Strikers Defense Committee, at 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, is conducting a campaign to raise funds for the appeals.

Guest column . . .

IT HAPPENS TO YOU

By Brig. Gen. H. C. Holdridge USA, Retired

Note to readers: Brig. General H. C. Holdridge (USA retired), a West Point graduate, has recently retired after 30 years of active Army service. As legislative representative of the Veterans League of America and a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Workers Defense League, he has been a leader in the fight against injustice in and out of the Army.

A friend of mine recently wrote an Army chaplain in France inquiring for the address of the family of a man believed to have been unjustly court-martialed. The chaplain replied: "Frankly, I find somewhat incomprehensible your interest in the case without any knowledge of the whereabouts of the man's family."

Frankly, I find the chaplain's reply incomprehensible. Our range of interest will be indeed small if we are only concerned for the welfare of those whom we know or with whose families we are acquainted. Our interest will be so small, in fact, that they will not even comprehend our own self-interest. In a democracy, an injustice done to anyone is an injustice done to all.

Injustice cannot be segregated. If it happens to a Jewish soldier in France, it affects a Negro sharecropper in Arkansas. And if it happens to a sharecropper, it affects a white worker in Detroit. That is the way injustice works. Like a pebble cast into the water, a single injustice sends out waves in ever-widening circles until the whole country feels the impact. The impact might be slight if it is one small injustice—slight to all except the man who was lynched, the man who lost his home, the man who has gone to jail. But one injustice left unchallenged invites the avalanche of injustice which will start the tidal wave which will engulf our democracy.

That is why Tee Davis, the Arkansas sharecropper, is important. That is why we cannot let Gov. Ben Laney, of Arkansas, rest until he has corrected this wrong his state has done. Here is how Lillian Smith, author of the best seller, Strange Fruit, tells the story:

"One night, Tee Davis, a black man, refused to open the door of his little shack when a white man kicked the door and yelled at him to open up. Instead, Davis, afraid of thieves, picked up his shotgun, aimed at the bottom of the door and fired. No one was hurt. But the volce ordering him to open the door belonged to a white sheriff and though he had no warrant and had not said that he was the sheriff, he arrested Tee Davis. The white plantation owners saw to it that the black man was sentenced to 10 years in prison."

And Tee Davis will have to spend the full 10 years in that prison camp unless YOU and I, and other freedom-loving Americans write to Gov. Ben Laney at Little Rock, Ark., insisting that Tee Davis get the same kind of justice he would have gotten if he were white. If Tee Davis is freed it will not be as easy next time to put a man in jail and keep him there just because he doesn't do what a white man wants.

Often we scarcely feel the almost imperceptible ripple sent out by an injustice thousands of miles away, because our personal small daily injustices numb us to a distant blow. But if we let attacks on human liberty go unanswered, they will come more frequently and more viciously.

During the long centuries of man's development he has built up defenses in the form of constitutions and laws, behind which he can find personal security. Once these defenses are breached, all security for everyone is jeopardized. We dare not acquiesce in a single violation of the safeguards established for all, without throwing away all our security. When an injustice is done, it happens to YOU

16e 1946

California

Stocking Cap Is Clue That 'Trapped' Man

New York

Amsterdam News

N.Y. N.Y.

LOS ANGELES — A man is still sentenced to die in San Quentin's death house because he, like five million other men in America, wear stocking caps. Testimony brought forth by the prosecution in the case of a year and a half old murder, "conclusively proved" there was some sinister relation between Dewey Adamson's possession of three stocking caps in his dreser drawer, and the theft of two stockings from the murdered woman's house. The fact that the stockings did not match did not come out in the trial that condemned Adamson to death.

Adamson said he had not been permitted to have counsel until two days before his trial. When he did obtain an attorney, his request for a new trial was refused.

Convicted by a California, all-while all-woman jury with no experience with stocking caps, Adamson still sits in the death house in San Quentin.

Case For Commutation

Post Washington, D.C.

The conscience of this community has reason to feel relief over the stay of execution granted to Julius Fisher pending an appeal for executive clemency. Fisher was convicted a little more than two years ago of murder in the first degree as a result of the killing of Catherine Reardon in the library of the National Cathedral. It was a peculiarly brutal and shocking crime. But its atrociousness ought not to be allowed in any measure to diminish, in respect to this particular criminal, the safeguards which our judicial system has contrived to assure a meticulous administration of justice. Fisher was duly convicted by a jury in District Court. The conviction was upheld by the Court of Appeals. And a fortnight ago the Supreme Court affirmed the sentence of death imposed upon him.

Sat. 6-22-46

But the Supreme Court divided in its decision on the case 4 to 3—an indication of itself that there is room for reasonable doubt as to the fulfillment of all the requirements of justice in the courts below. The question in Fisher's case is not whether he killed Miss Reardon but whether the killing was purposeful and "of deliberate and premeditated malice" as the District Code of Law defines first-degree murder. Miss Reardon had rebuked Fisher, calling him a "black nigger." He struck her with his hand impulsively in anger at this epithet and then, when she began to scream, struck her again with a stick and choked her into silence. She started to scream again, however, and he then stabbed her with a pocketknife. This does not sound like a crime indisputably embracing deliberation and premeditation. 6-22-46

As Mr. Justice Frankfurter observed in a dissent supported by Justices Murphy and Rutledge, this behavior "seems that of a man of primitive emotions reacting to the sudden stimulus of insult and proceeding from that point without purpose or design. Premediation implies purpose, and purpose is excluded by instantaneous action." It is Mr. Justice Frankfurter's view that the trial judge failed adequately to instruct the jury on the vital issue of premeditation or to focus its attention upon the alternative of a second-degree murder verdict. His seems to us an argument much more compelling than that of the Supreme Court majority which dwelt upon the policy of deferring to the District's courts on local law matters. No man ought to go to his death because of a regard for judicial etiquette.

Julius Fisher's execution can be averted now only by presidential action. We suggest no more than commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment. One need not go all the way with Justice Frankfurter's reasoning to hope that such a commutation will be ordered. It is established practice in the State of New York when the Court of Appeals there divides narrowly on a case involving capital punishment for the Governor to commute to a life sentence. The practice is a sound one. For when members of a court of last resort disagree, there is surely not that certainty which alone can justify society in exacting the supreme penalty. If an error must be risked, it is not amiss that it should be on the side of mercy. Sat. 6-22-46

Two Receive Death Sentences In D.C.

Defender Chicago, Ill.

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The electrocution date for Jesse James Patton, 21, and Reginald J. Wheeler, 26, convicted drugstore murderers of Maurice L. Berinstein, 51, was set last Friday for March 28, 1947. Sat. 12-14-46

Wheeler and Patton came separately before the District Court bench of Justice Alexander Holtzoff to hear the decision. Both men took their turns gazing fixedly at the gilt edge above the justice's chair as he read them their death notice. Defense attorneys immediately filed notices of appeal.

Medley Given Delay; Negroes Die In Chair

The News Birmingham, Ala. Fri. 12-20-46

Last-Ditch Stand Made By Lawyers To Save Prisoners

BY DONALD SANDERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—(AP)—Two Negro murderers died in the electric chair today, but the execution of Joseph D. Medley was delayed while his attorney made frantic efforts to save his life.

Jail Superintendent Curtis Reid ordered the electrocution of Medley delayed at least until later in the day pending action by the Court of Appeals on a petition for a lunacy hearing.

The court denied a similar appeal last night.

It was Medley's fatal affinity for redheads that headed him toward the electric chair.

William Copeland, 38, convicted of the fatal shooting of his sister-in-law, and Julius Fisher, 32, the so-called Washington Cathedral murderer, died in the District of Columbia electric chair at 10:39 a.m. and 10:46 a.m. (EST) respectively.

Medley was sentenced to death for the fatal shooting of Mrs. Nancy Boyer, 50-year-old divorcee, in March, 1945. He was indicted but never tried for the murder of a woman in New Orleans and was wanted in Chicago for questioning about a third.

The nude bodies of those two both were found in hotel bathtubs and both, like Mrs. Boyer, had red hair.

* * *

ATTORNEYS FOR ALL three tried every legal means to stay the executions again, as had been done half a dozen times. President Truman denied clemency appeals, and the Supreme Court refused for a third time to interfere late yesterday.

Reid said all three ate and slept well in their last days in the District of Columbia Jail, from which Medley made a sensational escape last April. All had chicken dinners last night.

Medley was sentenced by Justice T. Alan Goldsborough for the murder of Mrs. Boyer, whose fully clothed body was found in the kitchen of her fashionable 16th Street apartment on March 9, 1945.

She had been killed three days earlier after an all-night poker party which Medley attended. She was shot three times.

* * *

THE HANDSOME ESCAPED convict also was indicted for the death of Miss Laura Fischer, 28, in New Orleans on Christmas Eve, 1944, and was wanted in Chicago for questioning about the slaying of Mrs. Blanche Zimmerman, 39, in February, 1945. 12-20-46

A native of Pittsburgh, he served prison terms in Arkansas and Michigan before the 30-to-60-year kidnaping and robbery sentence he was serving at Mackson, Mich., at the time of his escape.

His flight from the District of Columbia Jail with Marine Veteran Earl McFarland touched off a congressional investigation.

He and McFarland, killer of a young government girl, overpowered a guard and slid to safety with a bedsheet rope. Medley was retaken several hours later in a local sewer. McFarland was re-arrested 12 days later and was electrocuted July 19.

Constable Convicted In Beating of Negro

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 3—(AP)—Suwanee County Constable Tom A. Crews was convicted by a federal court jury today of charges that he violated the civil rights of a Negro farmhand by beating him until he jumped into the Suwanee river and drowned.

U. S. District Judge Dozier A. Devane imposed a sentence of one year in prison and $1,000 fine, the maximum under the civil rights statute.

Defense counsel said they would file a new trial motion, and if denied, would appeal the verdict.

Navy Cook Guilty of Murder in Fla.

The Afro American
Baltimore, Md.

KEY WEST, Fla.—A Federal jury here recently found David J. Watson, a navy cook, guilty of first degree murder for the strangling of Benjamin Hobbs, 19, of Nebo, N.C., a sailor aboard a destroyer.

Hobbs's body was found hidden in a gun tub aboard the Destroyer Stribling here last July and Watson is said to have admitted that he strangled the sailor and then robbed him of $1.76.

Sat. 11-23-46

The defense counsel said that a new trial would be asked because the government had failed to prove premeditation, that Watson was of 'depraved mind' and therefore guilty of only second degree murder.

Constable Convicted For Beating Negro

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Oct. 3.—(AP)—Suwanee County Constable Tom A. Crews was convicted by a federal court jury today of charges that he violated the civil rights of a Negro farmhand by beating him until he jumped into the Suwanee River and drowned.

U. S. District Judge Dozier A. Devane immediately imposed a sentence of one year in prison and $1,000 fine, the maximum under the civil rights statute.

Defense counsel said they would file a new trial motion, and if denied, would appeal the verdict.

Asks Report on Trujillo Death

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (UP)—The State Department said today that it had asked Gov. Millard F. Caldwell of Florida to submit a full report on the fatal shooting of Jose Drian Trujillo Seijas, a nephew of Dominican President Rafael Trujilio, by a Florida deputy sheriff. The 21-year-old United States Army veteran was shot by Deputy Sheriff M. R. Peters Friday during an argument over "Jim Crow" restrictions in a cafe at Bunnell, Fla. Peters was cleared by a coroner's jury on grounds that he fired in self-defense.

Sun. 11-3-46

Justice Triumphant

The Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 10-12-46

Fla. Officer Gets Maximum Penalty

By CALVIN E. ADAMS, Florida Bureau

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Setting a significant precedent in Florida's legal history and heralding a new pattern in this State's code of justice in interracial cases, Tom A. Crews, ex-marshal of Branford was found guilty here last Thursday of depriving Sam McFadden, a farm hand, of "his life and liberty without the due process of law."

Immediately after the verdict of guilty was handed down in Federal Court, Crews was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of $1,000.

He was charged with violating the civil rights of 60-year-old McFadden by beating him until he jumped into the Suwanee River and drowned.

GETS MAXIMUM PENALTY

The case, tried here by Federal Judge Dozier A. Devane, lasted three days, and ended with Crews getting the maximum penalty.

The jury, which deliberated for about six hours, returned to the courtroom with a unanimous decision that the defendant be found guilty as charged.

The Federal prosecutors had pointed out that Crews had beat-

Justice in Florida

The Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 10-12-46

Last week in Jacksonville, Fla., Constable Tom A. Crews of Suwanee County was convicted by a Federal Court jury and sentenced to one year in prison and $1,000 fine, the maximum under the Civil Rights Statute.

Constable Crews beat a colored man, Sam Askins McFadden with a pistol and cow whip on Sept. 21, 1945, until the latter jumped into the historic Suwanee River and was drowned.

The defense attorney contended that McFadden had threatened Crews' life and that the whipping resulted from a personal feud between the two men.

The jury ignored this plea and found Crews guilty.

There was a time when a so-called peace officer charged with such a crime would have been promptly acquitted by any Florida jury, but times have changed.

While the sentence given Crews should have been far more drastic, considering his crime, the fact that he was found guilty and sentenced indicates a new departure in an area where it has been customary to acquit a white man so accused.

Undoubtedly the next constable who has an inclination to whip a man to his death will remember the fate of Tom A. Crews of Suwanee County.

Constable Found Guilty of Fatal Flogging in Fla.

Baltimore, Md. Sat. 10-12-46

Sentenced to Year, Fined $1000 for Forcing Prisoner to Leap Into River to Escape Beating

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—A constable who beat his prisoner so severely that he forced him to jump to his death in the Suwanee River was sentenced to one year in prison and fined $1000 here on Oct. 2.

The constable was Tom A. Crews of Suwanee County, who on Sept. 21, 1945, flogged Sam A. McFadden with a pistol and a cow whip until he jumped in an effort to escape.

with violating McFadden's Constitutional rights by denying him "life and liberty without due process of law."

Witnesses Relate Incident

Witnesses to the flogging, Lloyd Cribbs and James B. Barber, Crews's nephew, testified that the constable picked up McFadden in nearby Branford and carried him in an automobile to a spot off the Tallahassee highway.

There, they said, he first beat the prisoner with the cow whip in their presence.

The Afro-America

Barber, who drove the car, said that they then proceeded to a bridge over the river, where his uncle told him and Cribbs to "drive down the road about a half mile, then come back."

One Left on Return

When they returned, McFadden had disappeared, he stated.

McFadden's body, badly decomposed, was found later in the river. According to the medical examiner, there was so little flesh left that it was impossible to determine whether he had drowned or not. However, there was no evidence of a fracture or bullet wound.

Baltimore, Md.

Counsel for Crews have announced that they would seek a new trial, and, that failing, would appeal the verdict.

Sat. 10-12-46

In Washington, attorneys in the civil rights sections of the criminal division were jubilant and saw in Crews's conviction confirmation of their belief that they can get convictions in civil rights cases where law enforcement officers are not able to prove that the victim himself was violating the law and the use of force was necessary.

Mr. Rogers, who was sent from here to assist the United States District Attorney at Jacksonville, was picked out for the chore because he is a Southerner. He is a native of Texas.

"The Crews case shows," said Turner L. Smith, chief of the civil rights section, "that we can win police brutality cases notwithstanding the handicap imposed by the Screws decision, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that in order to convict, a jury must find that the defendant acted with the specific intent of denying the man some Federally-secured right."

Sentence Seven Defender Gls On Charge Of Mutiny

Chicago, Ill.

TAMPA, Fla.—Sentences varying from four to twenty-five years were given seven soldiers convicted by an Army court-martial on Wednesday night on charges of rioting and mutiny as the result of a disturbance at MacDill Field on the night of October 27. The cases are subject to review by a higher authority.

Sat. 12-28-46

The trouble grew out of an attempt by privates to rush a dance at a non-commissioned officers' club at the field. Two other soldiers were found guilty recently on charges growing out of the same indictment.

Two of the nine who went on trial December 16 were acquitted. They are Pvts. Earl Collins of Winston-Salem, N. C., and Gary W. Black of Baltimore.

Those convicted and their prison terms are Leonard Dotson of Shreveport, La., 25 years; Eddie L. Carothers of Austin, Tex., 20 years; Harrison Greer of Tunica, Miss., and John C. Burse of Erwin, N. C., both 10 years; Albert Jackson of Dutchtown, Ala., and James E. Green of Tupelo, Miss., both five years, and Joe D. Henry of Pittsview, Ala., four years.

We Need Fewer of These Miscarriages of Justice

The Journal and Guide Norfolk Va.

WE ARE repeatedly put to it to make sense of some of the findings in our courts of justice. During the past week in Hampton, Virginia, a man guilty of raping a 14-year-old girl was given the surprisingly light sentence of one year in prison, and then the sentence was suspended and he was set free subject to good behavior during the period of the suspended penalty.

In another case a man who shot another and in doing so had endangered the lives of others by firing a pistol five times across a Hampton street was finally convicted of mere assault and battery and given a stiffer sentence than was given in the rape case. Sat. 2.2.46

Perhaps the key to the lightness with which these offenses seemed to have been taken is in the color of all the principals involved. They were all Negroes.

It is not unusual to have juries and judges in the South take a light view of rape when the victim is non-Caucasian. But it is not quite so often that the offender gets off with merely a suspended sentence. If the punishment is light in all-Negro rape cases—and it often is for something far less heinous than rape, say, assault and battery—still the culprit serves such time as is given to him.

The white South holds Negro life and chastity lightly, but there are two aspects of the matter as it relates to criminal assault which we wish to point out. Perhaps they may curb the mild punishment trend so far as it affects Negro cases.

Do these juries and judges stop to think that any man who forcibly violates a woman, and even 'teen age girls, is a socially dangerous person who is apt to repeat his offense if permitted to be at large with no more than the equivalent of a mild "Go, thou, and sin no more" rebuke? And that he will not greatly care what the color or race of his next victim is, when he has the urge or incitement to repeat his offense? That, therefore, the next victim can be, for instance, a 14-year-old white child? And that is considered a serious offense by these same judges and juries. Sat. 2.2.46

Have they thought that to punish lightly offenses involving only Negro citizens develops an attitude of mind among the potentially criminal that is conducive of lawlessness, including rape and murder? And that this attitude is just as much a peril to the white segment of the population as it is to the Negro segment?

The same juries and judges would not hesitate to condemn to death a mad dog who was loose in a Negro neighborhood. They know too well that the crazed dog, with his fatal bite, is a threat to the *whole* community. When they see clearly that all crime, like diseased dogs and disease itself, is no respector of persons or of races—but equally a threat to the welfare of the community as a whole—then perhaps we shall see fewer of these miscarriages of justice which are rooted in a historic contempt for skins that are not white.

That time cannot come too soon, for the benefit of all concerned.



RALPH T. JONES

When Rope Breaks Or the Chair Fails

Atlanta Constitution, Ga.

Did you read that story some days ago about the Negro condemned to death in the electric chair who lived when the chair suffered a mechanical breakdown and the charge was too mild to do more than tickle?

I think it was in Louisiana and, as far as I know, the Negro is still alive, waiting decision of the courts as to whether he can again takes the "last mile" walk.

The story awoke memories of some unusual happenings at legal executions, or attempted executions.

It always has been my understanding that the law forbids a second attempt at execution if the first fails. Something to do with double jeopardy being illegal, the same basic law which forbids a man being tried a second time for the same crime of which he has been acquitted by a jury.

However, I have heard of instances where it took several attempts before the court's death sentence was successfully carried out, so suppose the issue is in doubt.

Have been told of a case years ago in a remote county in North Georgia where the condemned man fell through the trap, the rope broke and, although he was almost dead, he still breathed. It took all day to communicate with the Governor, who then ordered the execution carried out. In the meantime, the near-dead man laid under the scaffold on the ground. Thursday

Rope Slipped There was a case in Louisiana years ago where the rope slipped in such a manner the condemned man hung, after falling through the trap, because the rope was so caught under his jawbone it supported him, alive and conscious. He talked, hanging there, with the priest for 15 minutes and finally committed suicide by so jerking his body the rope strangled him.

I have read of a case, a century or more ago, when executions were public spectacles, in which the condemned man survived several attempts to hang him and was eventually allowed to go free. And, a few years later, he was proven innocent of the crime when another man confessed. That is fact, not fiction.

Last in Fulton I recall well the last hanging in Fulton Tower, before this State installed the electric chair and all death sentences since have been carried out at Milledgeville.

A cowardly, senseless thief stole a diamond ring from a jewelry store on Whitehall near the viaduct. It was a day or two before Christmas and the store had employed a special guard. The thief grabbed the diamond, deliberately shot the guard in the stomach and ran down Peachtree, turning into the Peachtree entrance of the Kimball House. In the passage he ran into Graham West, City Comptroller and, again coldbloodedly, shot Mr. West. The city official almost died, recovering only after a long hospital stay. The store guard died almost instantly. 5-23-46

The thief escaped to Chattanooga by taxicab, and there pawned the stolen ring for about one-third of its value.

He eventually was caught in Chicago because of the co-operation with the police of a prostitute here to whom he wrote.

Rarely has there been a more coldblooded, revolting murder in Atlanta's history.

Sentimentalism They brought the criminal, white-faced and cringing, back to Atlanta for trial. He was condemned to death. If ever there was a just sentence, that was it.

But a lot of sentimentalists, women, began a campaign to get the sentence commuted. Some 2,000 of them held prayer meeting in the State Capitol, trying to influence the Governor.

The late Fuzzy Woodruff, one of the finest newspapermen, Atlanta ever has known, covered the case. When it seemed the then Governor might weaken, Fuzzy wrote a marvelous story about the widow of the dead store guard. That widow and her four children were forgotten. They had little if any money and because of the death of the husband and father, faced a bleak future. Fuzzy pointed out the cruel insincerity of people who would weep and rave to save the skin of a vicious killer, but would do nothing to help the pitiful victims of his crime.

When they hanged that killer in Fulton Tower they hanged, just ahead of him, a Negro killer. The Negro's head was of such peculiar shape it was very difficult to place the noose so it would not slip. They finally succeeded, however. Then the white criminal went to his death. The last hanging in Fulton Tower.

Fuzzy was one of the witnesses. He told me the details of the scene in the death chamber.

It wasn't pretty. Thurs. 5-23-46

16e 1946

Georgia

Georgia Justice Invents a Crime

New York

By JAMES T. HOWARD

It's a crime in Fulton County, Ga., to call a person "poor white trash." Superior Judge Bond Almand, of Atlanta, so ruled, upholding the conviction of Curtis Clarke, a Negro, who had been sentenced to pay a $50 fine or serve six months in jail by a lower court.

Clarke, it was charged, used the term in referring to a white woman who remained standing in a crowded street car, rather than sit beside a Negro. 2-3-46

Judge Almand ruled that, in the South, the phrase is opprobious and abusive "in the same way as calling an Englishman in Egypt a *fellah* would be." Webster defines a *fellah* as "a peasant or cultivator."

Youth Given Ten-Year Sentence In Shooting of Police

The Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

ATLANTA — (ANP) — Richard H. Perryman, 16, last week was sentenced to 10 years in prison after an all-white jury convicted him of shooting an Atlanta officer and attempt larcency of an automobile.

Perryman shot Officer N. R. Clodfelter on May 29, shortly after the patrolman had arrested the youth. Perryman in turn was shot by Patrolmen Tom Brown and later admitted to Grady hospital in serious condition.

According to testimony, a struggle developed between the officers and the youth in a downtown section. The youngster already was arrested and testimony was conflicting as to how the struggle strated. Assistant Solicitor Hoke Smith, representing the state, claimed that Perryman attempted to strike the officers, who in turn got a headlock on the youth and reached for his blackjack. Defense counsel, however, said the officer was hiting Perryman when the youngster felt his life was in danger and attempted to protect himself.

On the witness stand, Perryman appeared mentally incapable of making a coherent statement in his own defense. After much effort, he did say, "I was scared to death when the officers started hitting me."

Death Sentence Commuted To Life Imprisonment

Infarmer Huston Texas

Judge 6-28-46

The death sentence of Elonzo Jones, scheduled to die Friday, June 28, for the robbery-murder of Pete Verge, liquor store operator, December 30, 1944, was commuted to life imprisonment Thursday by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, it was revealed by Board Chairman Edward B. Everett.

Jesse Craiton and George McKay were convicted and sentenced to be electrocuted for the same crime. Craiton has been electrocuted.

Attorney Reuben Garland, who prosecuted McKay and Craiton, stated in his application for commutation of death sentence.

DECLINED TO PROSECUTE JONES

"....I was an Assistant Solicitor General. In that capacity, I made a thorough investigation of the case, and I handled the prosecutions of McKay and Craiton, both of who were convicted and sentenced to be electrocuted. I declined to join in the prosecution of Elonzo Jones, because I was and am convinced he is not guilty."

The application reveals that Jones was arrested after the arrests of Craiton and McKay, but he was released after having "made a categorical denial of having had any connection with the robberies or murder of Verge." Later he was rearrested and 'signed a statement implicating himself in the murder" after having been "bullied by "Horse-thief" Johnson," an alleged accomplice of Craiton and McKay in robberies allegedly committed on the same date. Inf.

Relative to the alleged confession Attorney Garland said in the application, "I know how that statement was procured, and I do not believe there is any truth whatever in it."

Attorney Garland pointed out that it was unquestionable that the murderers ran after the killing; it was a physical impossibility for Jones to have run as he showed a large sore in the groin at the time of his arrest. Inf.

CREDIBLE WITNESSES FOR JONES

"There are witnesses," the application statement continued, "who assert Jones was at his home and asleep at the time Verge was murdered, and their statements are plausible, corroborated in many particulars, and, I firmly believe, credible." Inf

Judge Virlyn B. Moore of Fulton County Superior Court presided at the first trial of Jones and granted him a new trial. Garland's statement said that Judge Moore had a serious and reasonable doubt of his guilt when he granted a new trial. 6-28-46

PLEADS FOR JUSTICE

Continuing his plea for commutation Mr. Garland said:

"Elonzo Jones' death sentence has disturbed me a great deal and is on my conscience. I am informed it is not the part of propriety, and perhaps is unethical, for me to relate to you the facts I know and urge you to commute the death sentence of Elonzo Jones, but I think a lot more of my conscience and justice than I do of either propriety or ethics. My sole motive and only interest in this application is to try to prevent a miscarriage of justice and the electrocution of an innocent man."

Attorney Jesse Simmons, court appointed attorney for Jones, appeared with Attorneys Garland and George Manley before the State Board of Pardons and Paroles Tuesday and asked the Board for a pardon or commutaton.

Court Denies New Trial, Must Pay With Life

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga. Sun. 11-24-46

His appeal for a new trial having been turned down by the Supreme Court, George McKay, Negro, has been resentenced to die in the electric chair for the murder last December of Pete Vergiotis, Edgewood Avenue liquor dealer.

Judge Walter C. Hendrix, of Fulton Superior Court, has scheduled his electrocution for Dec. 6.

Three Negroes were convicted of the murder, committed during a holdup, one of whom, Jesse Craiton, already has paid the extreme penalty. The death sentence of a third, Elonzo Jones, was commuted to life imprisonment.

22-Year-Old Slayer Is Electrocuted

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

REIDSVILLE, Nov. 29—(AP)—A 22-year-old Negro paid with his life in the State Prison electric chair Friday for the slaying of a guard in an escape last July from the Irwin County work camp.

The Negro, James Rufus Williams, made no statement in the death house. 11-30-46-Sat.

Previously, he admitted to officers the fatal shooting of Bartow Morgan, 60, and Wilbur Tucker, 47, guards at the camp when he and a companion made their escape. Constitution 11-30-46

Williams was tried and convicted only of killing Morgan. Sat.

Three GIs to hang in Germany for killing white

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Three U.S. Negro soldiers have been sentenced to hang and two others to life imprisonment for killing a white soldier and wounding three last February at an enlisted men's club in Asberg, Germany, Third Army headquarters announced here last week.

Sentenced to die were Pfc. John Sessions, 24, Charleston, S. C.; Pvt. Chester Horner, Jr., 19, Baltimore, Md.; and Sgt. H. Woods, 23, Darlington, S.C.

Given life terms were Pfc. Mathew S. Jones, 26, Des Arc, Ark., and Pvt. James C. M. Hatcher, Havana, Fla.

Soldier Sentenced To Hang For Killing GIs In Germany

The Informer Houston, Texas
Sat. 8-24-46

FUERTH, Germany —(NNPA)— A nine-man general court martial last Friday night sentenced Private James C. Devone, a colored soldier, of Sampson County, North Carolina to be hanged for killing two soldiers on the fiscal staff of the Army newspaper "Stars and Stripes" on May 10.

Devone killed S. Sgt. William R. Timmons, 21, of West Haven, Connecticut, and T. Fourth Grade Paul R. Skelton 21, of McKinney, Texas. While they, another soldier and three women civilian employees of the paper were driving through a Nuernberg suburb in a jeep at night. He fired three times with a carbine.

The defendant stood at attention and displayed no emotion as Colonel U. N James, of Birmingham, Alabama president of the court, read the sentence. The verdict and sentence must be reviewed by Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, commanding American troops in Europe, before Devone can be executed.

Defense Witnesses

Devone and a blond 18-year-old German girl were the only defense witnesses. The girl admitted she had passed part of the night of the shooting in Devone's bille. Devone said she had been drinking "beer and schnapps all day," but felt sober when he killed the soldiers. He said he had been assigned to guard duty from 10 p.m to 2 a.m. but had not reported and the girl said he had left her early in the night.

Lt Carl M Shinn, of Pueblo, Colorado, chief prosecutor, charged that Devone probably had picked up his carbine to shoot a German policeman who he feared might arrest the girl for breaking the curfew. and had shot the two soldiers in the jeep which was passing.

In a signed confession made after his arrest Devone said he fired three shots "at a civilian going up the road," which resulted in the deaths of the two American sergeants He asserted that the jeep in which the sergeants were riding got in the way of the last bullet he fired.

'Teen-age German girl testifies for GI slayer

The Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif. Sat. 8-31-46

FUERTH, Germany — A blonde, 18-year-old German girl was the only defense witness for Pvt. James C. Devone, of Sampson county, N. C., recently sentenced to be hanged for killing two soldiers on the "Stars and Stripes" staff May 10 in a Nuremburg suburb.

The girl admitted she had spent part of the night of the shooting in Devone's billet. Devone said he had been assigned to guard duty from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., but had not reported. Chief prosecutor Lt. Carl M. Shinn said Devone probably had shot at a German policeman whom he feared might arrest the girl for breaking curfew and had hit the two soldiers in a passing jeep.
Sat. 8-31-46

Before the 9-man general court martial, headed by a Birmingham (Ala.) officer, Col. U. N. James, Devone said he had been drinking "beer and schnapps all day", but felt sober when he killed the soldiers. He said he fired three times with a carbine "at a civilian going up the road".

The sentence must be reviewed by Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, commander of U.S. troops in Europe, before Devone can be executed.

GI to Be Hanged for Slaying Two

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

FUERTH, Germany—(NNPA) —A nine-man general court martial, last Friday, sentenced Pvt. James C. Devone, of Sampson County, N. C., to be hanged for killing two soldiers on the fiscal staff of the Army newspaper "Stars and Stripes" on May 10.

Devone fatally shot Sgt. William R. Timmons, 21, of West Haven, Conn., and T/4 Paul R. Skelton, 21, of McKinney, Texas, while they, aonther soldier and three women civilian employees were driving through a Nuernberg suburb in a jeep at night.

The defendant stood at attention and displayed no emotion as Col. U. N. James, of Birmingham, president of the court, read the sentence.
Sat. 8-24-46

The verdict and sentence must be reviewed by Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, commanding American troops in Europe, before Devone can be executed.

Fraulein Defense Witness

Devone and a blond 18-year-old German girl were the only defense witnesses. The girl admitted she passed part of the night of the shooting in Devone's billet.

Devone said he had been drinking "beer and schnapps all day" but felt sober when he killed the soldiers. He said he had been assigned to guard duty from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. but had not reported, and the girl said he had left her early in the night.

Lieut. arl M. Shinn, of Pueblo, Colo., chief prosecutor, charged that Devone probably had picked up his carbine to shoot a German policeman who he feared might arrest the girl for breaking the curfew, and had shot the soldiers instead.

GI Signs Confession

In a signed confession made after his arrest, Devone said he fired three shots "at a civilian going up the road," which resulted in the deaths of the two American sergeants.

He asserted that the jeep in which the sergeants were riding got in the way of the last bullet he fired.

Private Devone confessed after ballistics tests showed the fatal shots were fired from an Army carbine which had been traced to him.

The empty shells were found behind a clump of bushes near the scene, in a bomb-shattered residential section of Nuernberg.

Private Devoen went overseas to serve in the 3757th Quartemaster Truck Company in the Nurenberg area.

Baltimore Lad Appeals to AFRO for Assistance

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Court-Martialed as Result of Clash With White Soldiers at German Club

Sat. 10-19-46

BALTIMORE — Pvt. Chester Horne Jr., 20, Carver Vocational School graduate sentenced to death in Germany, has asked the aid of the AFRO in saving his life.

The GI and eight other soldiers were court-martialed in May as a result of a clash between white and colored soldiers in Wurzburg, Germany, last February.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: A club for colored GI's and one for whites faced each other on the same street and it was reported that feelings often ran high.]

An inebriated white soldier tossed a beer bottle into the club reserved for colored soldiers, and a battle ensued during which one of the whites was killed and three others hurt.

Four Others Sentenced

Besides Horne, two other soldiers, Sgt. John Woods of Darlington, S.C., and Pfc. John Sessions of Charleston, S.C., were sentenced to hang; Pvt. James Hatcher of Havana, Fla., received life imprisonment and Pvt. Matthew S. Jones of Des Arc, Ark., 15 years, while Cpl. Henry Hawkins, Pvts. Louis Jackson, Willie Johnson and James T. Herrod were exonerated.

Pvt. Horne is one of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Horne Sr., who operate a grocery store one block from their home at 1706 Orleans St. The former Dunbar High School pupil had completed an electrical course at the Carver Vocational School and was employed in the post office when drafted late in 1944.



Pvt. Horne

Loses Heart

Despondent at failure of his own efforts to have the death sentence rescinded and to obtain his freedom, Private Horne sent the following appeal to the AFRO from the rehabilitation training center where he is stationed in Germany:

"Dear AFRO: I am writing you in my behalf because I have been tried and convicted of violating the 92nd and 93rd Articles of War as of May 28, 1946.

"I am not guilty of this crime, and I am asking for your help and assistance in any way that you can. I am a native Baltimorean with a clean record both in and out of the Army.

"It is urgent that I get out because I have a mother, five sisters and one brother, of which I am the oldest and who depend on me for support. I would appreciate your kindness and assistance in helping me in any way possible."

NAACP Pledges Aid

The senior Mr. Horne told the AFRO that he had been assured by the NAACP that the death penalty will not be carried out and that there is a strong possibility of their son's being returned to the United States to serve any time that may be imposed.

"He is becoming impatient because the wheels of the War Department are not turning as rapidly as he would like," the father added.

It was pointed out that Private Horne may not be guilty of participation in the fatal fight.

Marcus Ray, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, told the AFRO on Thursday that as yet the death sentences have not been approved by higher authorities.

The court-martial proceedings must first be reviewed by the judge advocate's office in Washington then passed to the Secretary of War and President Truman for final action.

Any communication on Private Horne's behalf as well as other soldiers should be addressed to the Office of the Judge Advocate, War Department, Washington, D.C.

16e 1946

Illinois

A Difference In "Rights"

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Sat 11-9-46

The News and Courier doesn't go quite far enough in commenting on the jailing of three Illinois law officers on charges of beating a Negro prisoner and, the jailing of a South Carolina officer for blinding a Negro. The fact that in Illinois the men were tried in state court while the South Carolina case was brought in federal court omits a poignant angle.

Illinois, with a Civil Rights statute, didn't wait six months to punish men who mistreated a Negro. It acted at once, thereby precluding federal action. Illinois has been wont to act always on such instances, not secretly applauding and approving wholesale abuses and cruelties. One has not heard of an Illinois state prison farm system, on which are placed only colored prisoners, who are murdered and beaten sadistically with heavy straps for trivial and no offenses, several of them being murdered.

Of these things in the paragraph above, no one can find similarity in South Carolina.

16e 1946

Italy

Convict Two Soldiers For Murder Of Major

2nd Defendant
Chicago, Ill. Sat. 10-12-46

LIVERNO, Italy.— Two Negro servicemen were convicted last week for the murder of Maj. Lewis B. Hildebrand of Baltimore last December, and sentenced to be hanged. The sentences are subject to review by the War Department.

Convicted by U.S. Army Court-martial the defendants are Henry T. Whiteside, inducted at Fort Bennings, Ga., and Leroy Robinson, inducted at Chicago. A witness testified that he had heard one of the accused swear that he would get Hildebrand, who was in charge of the detention camp where the pair were stationed. Hildebrand was found dead in a jeep near Viareggio, Dec. 2.

16e 1946

Japan

G.I. Gets Life For Killing Jap

Louisville, Ky.
Courier-Journal

Yokohama, Feb. 16 (AP)—Pfc. Robert L. Dickens, 27, Negro, Memphis, Tenn., was sentenced Thursday by a general court-martial to life imprisonment and dishonorable discharge after being convicted on a charge of murdering a Japanese in Tokyo, the Eighth Army announced today.

Dickens, member of the 71st Quartermaster Depot Unit, was convicted on the testimony of two soldier companions, a Japanese doctor, the Japanese widow and two Japanese boys. Capt. Charles Ward, Peabody, Kan., prosecuted the case. 1-17-46

The widow testified her husband, Kajuro Kimino, had stepped outside his home a few minutes and returned with his face "covered with mud and blood. Dickens neither testified nor commented during the trial.

16e 1946

Kentucky

Fagan to Die Here Today For Murder

Louisville Ky
Courier-Journal

Ernest Edward Fagan, 31, Norfolk Negro, is scheduled to die in the electric chair at the Virginia State Penitentiary today for the murder of Horace H. Cox, automobile dealer, last September 4.

Fagan had been slated for execution on January 18, but was granted an extra month by the Virginia Board of Pardons and Reprieves, in which his counsel might exhaust all legal remedies in his case.

1-15-46

At Fagan's trial a little more than a month after Cox was killed, the State charged that Fagan in company with another Norfolk man called on Cox in regard to the purchase of an automobile, and that an altercation arose when the men took a ride in an automobile in which Cox was fatally shot.

The other man in the automobile, Frank Peterson, was given 99 years and one day on conviction of murder.

Testimony was brought in the trial of Fagan, based on confessions of the two men, that Cox was shot when he failed to surrender his funds as the men had demanded. It was testified that the salesman, in fighting for his life, was shot by both men.

Acting Governor Verret Signs Stay Of Execution

New Orleans, La. Louisiana Weekly

Leesville, La.—Acting Governor J. Emile Verrett of Louisiana signed an eleventh-hour reprieve staying the execution of George Edwards, Jr., 18 yrs., late last Thursday, February 28. He was convicted on a charge of killing a white peddler during a holdup at Leesville, La., last December, and had been sentenced to be electrocuted between noon and three o'clock on Friday afternoon, March 1.

Bal 3-9-46

The reprieve granted a delay until May 24, and was addressed to Sheriff W. C. Turner.

The move to save young Edwards' life was spearheaded by Atty. William Henry Huff, veteran peonage lawyer of Chicago, in cooperation with a number of outstanding leaders and organizations. Following the slaying of the peddler, the youth's father was seized by the police, beaten but refused to sign a confession of guilt. The elder Edwards was released and his son was arrested.

After suffering inhumane third degree brutalities, young Edwards signed a confession. He alleges that he was brutally beaten and hung by the toes. He signed the confession, although police told him he was signing papers to go home, but was taken to the court house and tried. The youth was denied the opportunity to converse with relatives or friends from the time he was first arrested on Oct. 15 until after he was convicted on Jan. 21, Atty. Huff said.

house College, and many of his associates on the campus; Dean Scovel Richardson, Lincoln Law School; Attys. Loren Miller and Pauli Murray, both of California; Atty. Earl B. Dickerson, president of the National Bar Association; Attys. William Newton Johnson, James B. Cashin and A. P. Tureaud.

Atty. Huff has recommended that Atty. A. P. Tureaud of Louisiana, "follow through in the Louisiana courts in such way as he may determine," he said. Additional assistance in the case will be given by the National Bar Association.

Young Edwards expressed faith that his innocence would save him when he was shown the death chair on the day before he was scheduled to die. "God was not going to permit him to be executed for a crime he did not commit," he told law enforcement officials.

"Please hold up the execution of George Edwards, Jr., for 90 days," wired Dr. D. V. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention, which represents over a million Negroes. "Give us an opportunity to prove his innocence."

16e 1946

Louisiana and Willie Francis,



Wilbert Powell, left, and Joseph Besser, right, who were found guilty of the murder of Miss Bernice Roy on December 1, of last year in Judge Bernard Cocke's section of criminal district court last Friday afternoon, January 18. Defense Attorneys Chandler Luzenberg, Jr., and Bentley G. Byrnes said that they planned to take writs to the state supreme court.

Jury Declares 2 Youths Guilty Of Murder Charges

After an hour and forty minutes of deliberation, a jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder as charged against Joseph Besser and Wilbert Powell, both 18 years, and residing at 610 Bolivar street, Friday afternoon, January 18, in Judge J. Bernard Cocke's section of criminal district court.

Trial opened on Wednesday, January 16, both men charged with the murder of Miss Bernice Roy, 525 South Prieur street, last December 1.

The verdict of the jury calls for death by electrocution, however the defense attorneys said that they planned to take writs to the state supreme court.

In signed statements Besser and Powell admitted as evidence by the court, Miss Roy and Staff Sergeant William E. Mears, Anderson, Ind., were first held up by Besser and Powell on Tulane avenue. After the holdup, the couple was forced to walk to a lot behind the Chaille building on Bolivar street where one of the two, Besser or Powell, shot at Miss Roy.

Captain of Detectives Frank Lannes and Detective Louis Martinez testified, during Thursday's session of the trial, that arrested Besser and Powell at their home, 610 Bolivar street. The detectives claimed that they found a watch and ring supposedly taken from Sgt. Mears and the gun used in the combination holdup and murder.

Defense Attorneys Chandler Luzenberg, Jr., and Bentley G. Byrnes, cross-examined Detectives Lannes and Martinez, Desk Sergeant Harry Daniels, clerk in the detective office and who took the signed statements from Besser and Powell, and several police officers attached to precinct stations where the defendants were held pending charges being brought against them.

Assistant District Attorneys George Gulotta and Joseph Monies are the prosecuting attorneys.

Louisiana 'Chair' Works This Time, Murderer Dies

Leesville, La., May 11 (U.P.)—Louisiana's portable electric chair worked efficiently yesterday.

It took the life of George Edwards, jr., 18, Negro, a murderer, in one minute.

The last time it was used, a week ago today, it only "tickled" Willie Francis, 17, Negro, also a murderer. As a result of that mishap, Willie has received a 30-day reprieve and may have his death sentence commuted.

Despite Willie's experience, Edwards had no hope he would be as lucky. While he was being strapped to the chair, he smiled grimly and said to witnesses:

"I'll see you up there."

Youth Cheats Chair, Execution Re-scheduled

Willie Francis, 17-year-old Negro boy who escaped death last Friday in the Louisiana State Prison's electric chair because of faulty electrodes, is scheduled to be seated in the chair again on Thursday. Francis, convinced that "the Lord's hand" stayed his death, is confident the miracle will happen again. Gov. J. H. Davis rescheduled the execution without soliciting a legal opinion from the Louisiana Attorney General. Francis was convicted of killing a Louisiana druggist.

Louisianan Is Not First To Miss Death By Quirk Of Fate

COLUMBIA, Miss., May 4—(AP)—Failure of the Louistana electric chair to function yesterday for an execution recalled a strange Mississippi case of a half century ago in which Will Purvis slipped through the noose, gained his freedom and later was absolved of a murder charge.

Purvis, then in his teens, mounted the gallows in Columbia on Feb. 7, 1894, to be hanged for the killing of his neighbor, Will Buckley, in an ambush attack.

The noose slipped. Purvis, bound hands and feet, fell to the ground, and Sheriff J. O. Magee assented to appeals from the crowd that his fate be left to the governor.

Although the Mississippi Supreme Court re-sentenced Purvis to hang on Dec. 12, 1892, his case became a political football and Gov. Anse J. McClaurin issued Purvis a yuletide pardon on Dec. 19, 1898.

In the ensuing years Purvis became a farmer, set up his household and reared a family of 11 children.

Then in 1920 another man, Joe Beard, unsuspected of any connection with the case, made a deathbed confession to Dist. Atty. Foxey Hall in which he said he (Beard) and an accomplice did the shooting.

The name of Purvis was entirely cleared and the Mississippi Legislature voted the aggrieved man a $5,000 reward for his unfortuate experience on the gallows.

Purvis died at the age of 66 at Lumberton, Miss., on Oct. 14, 1938.

The wrongly-charged man had been convicted partly on the testimony of a witness that he saw Purvis come out from a blind and brake his gun after the shooting of Buckley.

Buckley was ambushed and killed in a feud over the whipping of a Negro tenant on Buckley's farm by raiders of a secret clan known as "White Caps."

Electric Chair Tickles' Negro But Doesn't Kill

Louisiana Officials Now In Quandary Over Slayer's Fate

ST. MARTINSVILLE, La., May 4—(AP)—A 17-year-old Negro who survived being strapped in the electric chair and having the switch thrown, said that "it tickled a little but didn't hurt much."

The 150-pound youth, Willie Francis today was in a death cell in the Iberia Parish Jail at New Iberia while state legal authorities wondered whether another attempt could ever be made, under the law, to electrocute him.

The Negro was strapped in the chair yesterday and the current was turned on. He squirmed and then astounded attendants by yelling under the hood, "Take it off! Take it off!"

* * *

FRANCIS SAID "the Lord was with me" when he was taken from the faulty chair, and later in a death cell interview said that he was "thinking of going to heaven" when the switch was thrown.

Gov. Jimmie Davis granted a six-day reprieve. Sheriff Leonard Resweber said he would attempt to have the execution carried out next Thursday.

In the interview Francis, who was convicted of slaying Andrew I. Thomas, a St. Martinville druggist, answered questions readily and even discussed the slaying.

He said he thought "it would hurt a little" when the switch was thrown and that he had difficulty in breathing with the straps and hood over his face.

* * *

ASKED WHETHER he considered the chair's failure an act of God, Francis replied, "I sure don't know, but I am sure glad about it."

He said he felt "perfectly all right" after he was removed from the chair and that he was sorry "I killed a man." He said "maybe I'll go to heaven," and then added, "I wonder how it is in hell."

He described Thomas as "a swell guy," and said he had once been employed by the slain man. The Negro said he didn't know why he shot Thomas "because I wasn't after money."

He showed reporters an inscription he had made a month ago on the wall of his cell. It said:

"Practically I killed Andrew by accident. It will happen once in a lifetime. Look where Andrew is today he's in a lonely coldly grave. Of course I'm not a killer. Andrew Thomas is dead. Murder by Willie. Murder at midnight. Willie Francis, 800 Washington Street, St. Martinville. Sorry at myself."

* * *

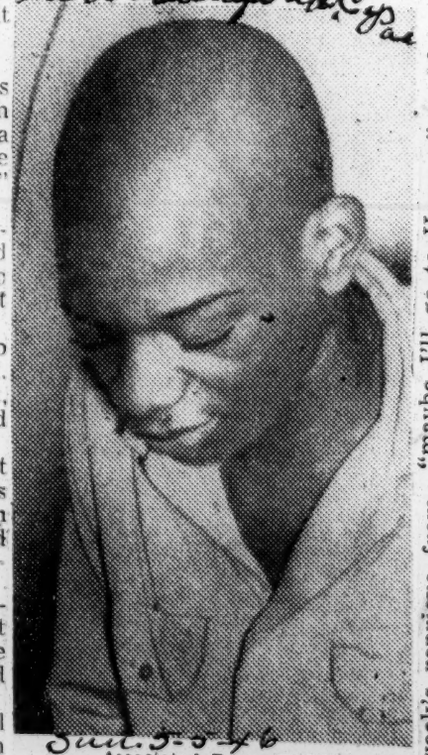
IN BATON ROUGE Atty. Gen. Fred S. Leblanc said there was one "line of authority" holding that if a death sentence was not carried out on the date set, it could not again be attempted. He added, however, that he could not attempt an offhand opinion in Francis' bizarre case.

He pointed out, however, that the court's sentence probably said Francis should be "electrocuted until dead."

D. D. Bazer, state penitentiary warden, laid the trouble today to a failure in the chair controls, probably caused by a wire burning out. He said he believed Francis received no shock at all.

The chair was taken to the Angola Prison for repairs. Bazer said it would be returned to St. Martinville for the execution of Francis next Thursday, and will be carried to Leesville the next day for the execution of George Edwards, Jr., also scheduled to die for murder.

Says the Chair 'Tickled a Little'



Associated Press WIREPHOTO

WILLIE FRANCIS, 17, convicted slayer of a Louisiana druggist, was back in the New Iberia, La., jail today after getting a week's reprieve from death when an electric chair failed at St. Martinville, La. Francis, quietly reading the Bible, said he was "thinking of going to Heaven" when the switch was thrown. The current to the Louisiana Supreme Court "tickled a little but didn't hurt much," he said. He said he was sorry I killed a man" and that "maybe I'll go to Heaven."

Negro Youth Facing Electric Chair Second Time

ST. MARTINSVILLE, La., May 8—(AP)—Willie Francis looked today for a reprieve for Francis after the chair the murder of Andrew I. Thomas, death last Friday to function last week. Hun- St. Francisville druggist, who was Bertrand de Blanc, St. Martinville failed to function last week. Hun- St. Francisville druggist, who was lost an attempt todreds of pleas for clemency have slain in a robbery. corpus writ yes- come from all parts of the country. District Judge James De Blanc's petition for a habeas one or the other of those sources. Negro, who escaped take his plea today to the Supreme was "electrocuted" last week as or- the 17-year-old Negro dered in the governor's death war- day because of a Court in New Orleans. rant, and therefore cannot legally the control box, will Gov. James H. Davis, who is out, be subjected to the hazard again. between noon and of the state now, issued a six-day reprieve for Francis after the chair loose wire in the ce- be strapped again in portable chair betw- ow. tomorrow. 3 p.m. Blanc, St. Martinville Francis was sentenced to die for

SECOND TRIP NEAR TO ELECTRIC CHAIR

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald

Failure Of Portable Equipment Causes Postponement

ST. MARTINVILLE, La., May 6—(AP)—Sheriff Leonard Resweber, St. Martin Parish, said today plans were being completed for the second endeavor to electrocute Willie Francis, 17-year-old Negro slayer, for murder next Thursday.

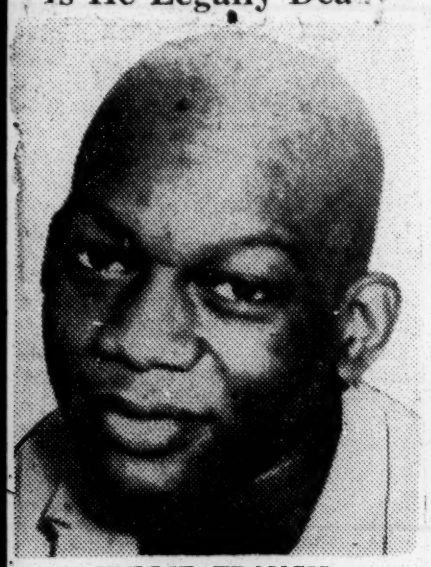
The first attempt to carry out the death sentence last Friday in the state's portable electric chair here failed because of a defect in the equipment. Gov. Davis then granted a six-day reprieve. The chair is being repaired.

Both the sheriff and State Atty. Gen. Fred S. Leblanc said that no legal move had been made so far to interfere with the second attempt to execute. Tue. 5-7-46

The sheriff said the condemned man, held in nearby Iberia Parish Jail, was "as cocky as ever," and he doubted that Francis received any of the current last Friday. Francis said afterwards that he "felt a tickle."

"Anyway, he wasn't hurt," said the sheriff. "He cursed at a spectator as he left the jail."

Is He Legally Dead?



WILLIE FRANCIS,

17, who won a million-to-one chance of reprieve from death when the electric chair failed to kill him at Iberia, La., hopes the Louisiana Supreme Court, which now has his case, will decide that he has been executed and "legally dead." He was given the death sentence in the murder of a druggist.

2nd Petition Filed to Save La. Youth

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

NEW ORLEANS (NNPA). — A second petition was filed before the Louisiana Supreme Court late last Thursday seeking to prevent the electrocution of Willie Francis, 17, who escaped death on May 3 at St. Martinville, La., when the State's electric chair failed.

In the latest move, Bertrand De Blanc, St. Martinville attorney, contended that if the State should "re-execute" the youth as scheduled, Francis would be placed in double jeopardy.

De Blanc contended that a second attempt to electrocute Francis under the circumstances would constitute cruel and unusual punishment and would be prohibited by the Federal and State Constitutions.

This petition, along with a similar petition seeking to halt the electrocution, was placed in the hands of the court for action.

Francis, confessed killer of a druggist in St. Martinville, meanwhile, looked forward to at least a few more weeks of life.

On May 8, he received a reprieve "not to exceed 30 days" upon the request of Chief Justice Charles A. O'Neil, who said the court needed more time to study the case.

Before the reprieve was allowed, Francis was scheduled for a second trip to the chair on May 9.

Acting Governor Emile Verret, on May 8, postponed for thirty days the second attempt to electrocute Francis. Owing to faulty electrodes, Francis was only "tickled" in the first attempt.

Verret telephoned Sheriff Leonard Resewber at St. Martinville from Baton Rouge not to bother "trying again" on May 9, after receiving a call from Chief Justice O'Neil here asking for the postponement.

O'Neil acted promptly after he had received a telephone call from De Blanc.

He told De Blanc to file an application for a restraining order, which the high court honored. De Blanc, 34, discharged war veteran, took Willie's case on May 8.

A spokesman for the court here said: "In view of the many legal angles, we asked the Governor to delay the execution to give us time to study the case."

De Blanc set Louisiana's legal machinery into speedy motion. Though a lifelong friend of the man Willie murdered, De Blanc volunteered for the defense.

"This boy, Willie, walked up to the jail on the day of the execution, sat down in the chair and never faltered," De Blanc told the Governor. "But the State fell down on its job.

"It made him suffer the torture of facing death without completing it. How many times does a man have to go to the chair to atone for his crime?"

De Blanc as well as Alexander P. Tureaud and Joseph Thornton, attorneys, who were retained by the NAACP to represent Francis, filed petitions for writs of habeas corpus.

District Court Judge James D. Simon denied both applications on May 8 and also refused a restraining order requested by De Blanc.

The NAACP counsel also filed application for a review of Judge Simon's decision by an appellate court. One of Willie's seven sisters authorized the NAACP to represent her brother.

Willie's father, who engaged De Blanc, revealed that he had borrowed money, bought a tombstone for his son's grave, and had a hearse waiting at the side door of the St. Martinville Jail.

Negro Says 'Lord Was With Me' As Electric Chair Switch Fails

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

ST. MARTINVILLE, LA., May 3—(AP)—Willie Francis, 17-year-old condemned Negro slayer, missed death in the electric chair today by one of those almost unbelievable quirks—something was wrong with the equipment when the switch was thrown.

But he may have less than a week's reprieve. Sheriff Leonard Resweber said he intended to carry out a second attempt next Thursday. Sat 5-4-46

The 150-pound Negro was strapped in the state's portable chair, the power switch thrown, and the attendants were surprised to hear him mutter from beneath his black hood:

"Take the cap off, I'm having a hard time breathing."

Francis' first remark when removed from the chair was: "The Lord was with me."

Louisiana Slayer Wins 29-Day Stay

Louisville, Ky. Courier-Journal

Youth Who Cheated Chair May Live

Thurs 5-9-46

St. Martinville, La., May 8 (AP)—A stuttering, 17-year-old condemned Negro slayer was given a new lease on life today while Louisiana's Supreme Court decides whether a man may be made for the second time to walk the last mile to the electric chair.

Saved last Friday by the failure of the State's portable electrocution equipment, Willie Francis got another reprieve less than 24 hours before he again was scheduled to die for the slaying last year of a St. Martinville druggist.

29-Day Stay Granted.

Lieutenant Governor J. Emile Verret, the State's acting Chief Executive while Governor Jimmie H. Davis is in Washington on business, granted a 29-day stay to be effective while the Supreme Court is studying the legal aspects of a case unparalleled in Louisiana history.

In the death cell of the Parish Jail at near-by New Iberia, Francis took with a broad smile the news that Verret had acted, at the request of Chief Justice Charles A. O'Neill.

The Chief Justice telephoned Verret at Baton Rouge and told him a majority of the justices agreed that the reprieve should be granted. Thurs 5-9-46

Legal moves to save Francis took form yesterday while the Governor's office was deluged with letters, telegrams and telephone calls asking clemency.



Willie Francis

'God Fooled With Chair'

'Electrocuted' Man Gains 29-Day Delay

Richmond Times Dispatch Richmond, Va.

Thurs. 5-9-46

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LA., May 8—(UP)—Twenty-nine additional days of life were granted to Willie Francis today less than 24 hours before he was scheduled to return to the electric chair a second time.

During those extra days, attorneys will battle to save Willie from the death which he cheated last Friday because, he believed, "God fooled with the electric chair."

The reprieve, signed in Baton Rouge by Acting-Governor Emile Verret, was granted at the request of Chief Justice Charles A. O'Niell, of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Thurs. 5-9-46

The order to halt the execution, scheduled for some time between noon and 3 P. M. tomorrow, was telephoned to Sheriff Leonard Resweber here by Verret.

Verret said he had taken the action on a specific request from Justice O'Niell, who said he represented a majority of the members of the court in asking more time to study the many legal angles confronting a second electrocution.

Earlier, O'Niell had agreed to hear a petition for a temporary restraining order at 10 A. M. tomorrow in New Orleans. The petition was filed by A. P. Tureaud and Joseph A. Thornton, representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A second petition was filed by Bertrand Deblanc, a 35-year-old European war veteran, who took the case only yesterday at the request of Willie's father.

High Court Pondering 'Chair-Cheater's' Plea

Birmingham, Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, May 10—(AP)—The Louisiana Supreme Court today had under consideration a legal application to free Willie Francis, 18, condemned Negro murderer who survived one official attempt at electrocution.

Francis now has a stay of execution for not more than a month, granted by Acting Gov. J. Emile Verret at the request of the high court, which wanted to study the legal situation created by failure of the state's portable electric chair to function after Francis was strapped in it and the switch thrown. Tues. 5-10-46

Atty. Bertrand De Blanc had applied to the Supreme Court for writs to require state and parish officials to show cause why Francis should not be released.

His petition asserted Francis "through an act of God lived" after the electrocution attempt last Friday. The attorney said a second attempt at execution would place Francis in double jeopardy and would constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

A. P. Tureaud, of New Orleans, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he was investigating procedure for asking the State Pardon Board to commute Francis' death sentence to life imprisonment. Tues 5-10-46

LOUISIANA 'CHAIR' IN WORKING ORDER

Birmingham, Ala. Birmingham Age-Herald

LEESVILLE, La., May 10—(AP)—Chief Deputy Sheriff C. W. McNaughton reported that the state's portable electric chair functioned without a hitch today, sending George Edwards, Jr., convicted Negro murderer, to his death this afternoon.

The officer said the Negro was pronounced dead within two minutes after the current was applied.

Edwards, 18, was convicted of ambushing and shooting Henry Roberts, a farmer of near here, with a .22 rifle last Dec. 15 and robbing him of about $5. Sat. 5-11-46

The chair, repaired after its failure last Friday at St. Martinsville in the scheduled execution of Willie Francis, another condemned Negro murderer, was set up in the jail here.

Negro Chair Cheater, High Court Plea Lost, Prays Still 'Harder

News Birmingham, Ala.

Thurs 5-16-46

NEW ORLEANS, May 16—(AP)—An attorney explored various means today of saving a 17-year-old Negro a second trip to the electric chair, while the condemned blocked yesterday when the State jeopardy, cruel and unusual punishment and deprivation of life without due process of law."

Lt. Gov. Verret after the first attempt to execute him failed, expires June 7.

high court's d "it sounds I got to go

La. Pardon Board Rejects Clemency For 'Doomed Youth

Birmingham, Ala. Birmingham Age-Herald

LATE BULLETIN

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Willie Francis, "the victim of a bad civilization," will be executed Friday, June 7 unless the gov-

ould make an- his eyes which u willed to a who has been

was convicted

rtinville drug-

error steps in to save him. The Pardon Commission Monday refused to grant clemency to the youth who escaped death in Louisiana's portable electric chair when the current failed several weeks ago.

"It looks as though the last vestige of hope is gone," said Dr. Wilson, leading New Orleans minister. "He is the victim of a bad civilization. The Pardon Board was the last resort."

Youth In Electric Chair Jumps, It Fails, and He Gets Reprieve

The Courier Journal
Louisville Ky.

By the Associated Press.

Saint Martinville, La., May 3.—A 17-year-old Negro got a one-chance-in-a-million reprieve from death today when an electric chair failed after he had been strapped in and the switch thrown.

As the current was applied the youth squirmed and jumped as much as the straps would permit. But when the current was turned off, he still was alive.

Sheriff Leonard Resweber telephoned Governor Jimmie H. Davis, who granted a week's reprieve.

The Negro, Willie Francis, was sentenced to die for the slaying of a Saint Martinville druggist a year ago.

He was returned for safekeeping to New Iberia.

He had a little difficulty in breathing, but otherwise showed no ill effects. Sat. 5-4-46

Arrangements were made to try again to carry out the electrocution next Thursday at noon.

Sheriff Resweber, in charge of the execution, said the exact cause of the failure had not been determined.

The 150-pound Negro was strapped in the State's portable chair and the power switch thrown. Attendants were surprised to hear him mutter from beneath his black hood:

"Take the cap off, I'm having a hard time breathing."

The Negro's first remark when removed from the chair, the sheriff said, was:

"The Lord was with me."

Sheriff Resweber said the full electrical charge was applied, but the condemned man was "not even scorched."

Electric Chair 'Tickled' But Failed To Kill Negro

Montgomery, Alabama
Advertiser
Sun 5-5-46

NEW IBERIA, LA., May 4.—(U.P.)—A hymn-singing young Negro who was "divinely spared" from electrocution last night felt fine today because "the Lord is with me," but Louisiana officials said he would go to the chair a second and final time next Thursday.

Gov. James H. Davis said it was his understanding the sentence would be carried out.

The only thing barring the second electrocution, Davis said, would be unforeseen legal angles. These angles were being studied by State Attorney General Free S. LeBlanc, who was combing the statutes to see if the state could legally put Francis in the chair a second time.

A Negro Baptist minister who once survived a Ku Klux Klan lynching party said "Divine intervention" has saved Willie Francis. But Warden D. D. Bazer, of Louisiana State Penitentiary, said it was faulty electrodes instead of God.

Bazer said the chair was being examined in Baton Rouge now and would be returned to St. Martinsville for the second electrocution on May 9.

The 150-pound Negro, who claimed he killed his victim by accident, today kept muttering "the Lord is with me," and resumed his prison regimen of reading a Catholic prayer book and humming familiar southern Negro spirituals. Sun 5-5-46

Francis was quivering with fright as they led him from the death chair last night at St. Martinsville. Jailer Sidney Geroun said the young Negro slept soundly when he was returned to the jail here and enjoyed his coffee and bread when he awoke.

"I'm perfectly all right," he drawled. "It didn't hurt none when they threw the switch—just kinda tickled a little bit."

Francis was convicted last year of fatally shooting a St. Martinsville druggist.

Sheriff Leonard Resweber said Francis was quiet and apparently resigned to his fate as he was led to the execution chamber.

"We strapped him in the chair and threw the switch," Resweber said. "Then he started squirming and fighting and trying to break loose from the straps. He could not move much but we could see that he was alive and fighting. He continued to fight and strain. After the current passed through, we unstrapped him and he was perfectly okay."

When they told Francis what had happened, he was convinced Divine intercession had saved him.

The Rev. Coleman cited a personal experience to support his faith in Divine intervention.

In 1925, he said, he was seized by the Ku Klux Klan in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and taken to a creek bank, where the hooded Ku Kluxers threatened to lynch him. They had guns and ropes.

Coleman said his aged mother at home had a vision telling her that her son was in danger. She prayed 35 minutes, he said, and a voice told her he was finally safe. Sun 5-5-46

The Negro preacher said that, just as the leader prepared to truss him up, the "intervention" came and all the Ku Kluxers fell back "powerless." He said he laughed at them, brushed himself off and returned to town unharmed.

Youth, Who Survived 'Chair,' Given Another Reprieve

Washington Post, D.C.
Thurs 5-9-46

St. Martinville, La., May 8 (AP).—A stuttering, 17-year-old condemned Negro slayer was given a new temporary lease on life today while Louisiana's Supreme Court decides whether a man may be made for the second time to walk the last mile to the electric chair.

Saved last Friday by the failure of the State's portable electrocution equipment, Willie Francis got another reprieve less than 24 hours before he again was scheduled to die for the 1945 slaying of a St. Martinville druggist.

Acting Governor J. Emile Verret granted a 29-day stay at the request of Chief Justice Charles A. O'Neill.

In the death cell at nearby New Iberia, Francis took with a broad smile the news.

The Governor's office was deluged with letters. Telegrams and telephone calls asking clemency.

Attorney Bertrand De Blanc, who entered the case on the pleading of Francis' father, turned to the Supreme Court after he failed to win a stay in District Court.

De Blanc, a friend of Andrew J. Thomas, the druggist who was killed during a robbery, said:

"I do not believe that a man should be made to go to the electric chair twice.

"If any lawyer in the country knows of a legal opinion which would be a precedent in this case, I certainly wish that he would get in touch with me."

Louisiana Grants Last-Minute Stay For Willie Francis

New York, N.Y.
Tuesday
P.M.

By James T. Howard

Willie Francis, 17, won't take his second walk to Louisiana's portable electric chair today. Thanks to Bertrand DeBlanc, a war veteran returned to legal practice, Willie is sure of at least 30 more days of life in St. Martinville jail.

A long-time friend of the man Willie killed when surprised in a burglary, DeBlanc stepped into the case yesterday, persuading Willie's father to retain him as counsel. With Willie scheduled to "die" again at noon today, DeBlanc sped to New Orleans for a talk with State Chief Justice Charles O'Neill, then telephoned acting Gov. Emile Verrett at Baton Rouge. His voice cracked and tears streamed down his cheeks while he pleaded in a mixture of English and French:

"This boy, Willie, walked up to the jail on the day of the execution, sat down in the chair and never faltered. But the State fell down on its job. It made him suffer the torture of facing death without completing it. How many times does a man have to go to the chair to atone for his crime?" 5-9-46

Moved by the plea, Verrett indicated he would consider a stay if Judge O'Neill asked for it. DeBlanc hurried back to the court and O'Neill telephoned the capital. Verrett, in turn, telephoned the Sheriff at St. Martinsville to delay the execution 30 days. Said a court spokesman: "In view of the many legal tangles, we asked the Governor to delay the execution to give us time to study the case."

Meanwhile, the State of Louisiana made certain that its portable electric chair would do more than "just tickle" its next subject. Shipped back to Baton Rouge, the apparatus has been thoroughly overhauled, rewired and tested. It was back in the St. Martinsville jail, ready for Willie Francis, when the stay was ordered. N.Y. N.Y.

Chair Evader Gra[illegible] Reprieve

Atlanta Ga.
Constitution

BATO[illegible]E, La., June 4—(AP)—Gov. [illegible]mie Davis Monday issued a "reprieve until further order" for Willie Francis, Negro youth who escaped death in an electrocution attempt, to enable Francis to seek remedy before the U. S. Supreme Court. The State Supreme Court had granted Francis permission to appeal to the Federal Court.

NEGRO'S PLEA STAYS SECOND 'EXECUTION'

New York Times

Black Grants Reprieve While High Court Considers Review of 'Double Jeopardy'

Wed

WASHINGTON, June 4 (U.P.)—The Supreme Court was asked today to determine whether Willie Francis, 17-year-old Negro slayer of Louisiana paid in full his debt to society when the State's defective electric chair failed to kill him.

James Skelly Wright, a Washington lawyer, filed a petition with the high court asking it to review the youth's plea that if Louisiana put him to death now it would be "cruel and inhuman" punishment and would place him in double jeopardy for a single crime.

Justice Hugo L. Black granted a stay of execution while the court considers whether it will review the case. Wed-6-5-46

The petition was filed after the Louisiana pardon board rejected a plea for a commutation of the Francis sentence. Gov. James H. Davis granted an indefinite stay of execution to permit an appeal to be made to the Supreme Court. The Martinville youth, who was convicted of slaying Andrew Thomas, a druggist, was to have been electrocuted again next Friday. 6-8-46

In the petition, the youth's attorney said, that another attempt to electrocute him would violate two specific constiutional prohibitions, double jeopardy and cruel and unusual punishment. The petition said that the boy already had been through "the most gruelling experience known to man."

Convicted Negro Waits Supreme Court Verdict 'Feeling Pretty Good'

Montgomery Ala.
Advertiser

NEW IBERIA, LA., June 11.—(AP)—Willie Francis sat in his jail cell here today, chewing a bar of nickel candy and feeling "pretty good" over news that the United States Supreme Court will review his case next October. Wed-6-12-46

The 18-year-old Negro lived to tell the story of his own "electrocutiton" when a mechanical fluke caused the State's portable electric chair to "only tickle" him, May 3. He was convicted of the murder of Andrew Thomas, a St. Martinsville, La., druggist. State officials said no current reached the condemned man's body.

The Supreme Court ruled today that Willie Francis, 17-year-old Negro of Louisiana, must go to the electric chair for the second time.

The tribunal refused to consider the youth's plea for commutation of sentence because the state's defective electric chair failed to kill him the first time on the original

Francis appealed after the Louisiana Board of Pardons turned shooting Andrew Thomas, a druggist, two years ago. He was scheduled to die May 3, but he was given a reprieve when the chair, because James Skelly Wright, maintained that for Francis to appeal after the State Supreme Court refused to intervene, ruled to die May 3, but he was given a reprieve when the chair, because of defective wiring, twice failed to preme Court refused to intervene. The youth's lawyer, James Skelly Wright, maintained that for Francis to appeal after the Louisiana Board of Pardons turned down his plea and the State Supreme Court refused to intervene, ruled to die May 3, but he was given a reprieve when the chair, because of defective wiring, twice failed to kill him and would place him in double jeopardy for a single crime.

The tribunal refused to consider the youth's plea for commutation of sentence because the state's defective electric chair failed to kill him and would place him in double jeopardy for a single crime, punishment now would be electrocute him on that date.

The first time on the original death date last month. Wed-6-12-46

Order Negro Led to Chair For 2d Time

WASHINGTON, June 10 (UP).—

Willie Francis Gets Second Reprieve; Case To Supreme Court Now

Tension was relieved in the case of Willie Francis, who miraculously escaped death in the electric chair, as he was granted another last minute, temporary reprieve by Governor Jimmie H. Davis last Monday. It came on the heels of the state pardon board announcement that it could not commute the youth's original death sentence.

The reprieve gives the lad's attorneys time to file an appeal before the United States Supreme Court. Two previous appeals before Louisiana State courts, filed by NAACP attorneys, A. P. Tureaud and J. A. Thornton, have been denied.

The Supreme Court appeal will be filed by Attorney James Skelly Wright in Washington, who will ask for writs based on the constitutional stipulation regarding due process, double jeopardy and unusual punishment. If this appeal is also denied the NAACP, which has left no stone unturned in the fight to save the boy's life, may file another brief before the State Lunacy Board. Several persons have stated that Francis is not of normal mentality although the fact that he is unbalanced was not brought out in his trial. He was represented by a state appointed attorney when his father could not afford to hire one. Another unusual angle of this case is the fact that Francis walked the streets of St. Martinville for a year before he was accused of the murder of a local druggist which happened in November, 1944.

Francis confessed to the slaying and was convicted. When he was strapped in the electric chair the current was strong enough to lift it off the floor and to burn the floor boards but the lad was apparently unscathed.

made neighbors and friends suspect that he might be insane.

When the youth was brought into court for allegedly murdering a white druggist at the age of 15, he never seemed actually aware that he was on trial for his life, it was reported. Observers said he was cocky and acted "like a kid who was playing a game."

Willie Is Still Praying He May Escape Chair

ST. MARTINVILLE, La., June 11 —(AP)—Turned down by the United States Supreme Court, Willie Francis was "praying pretty hard" in his cell here today for the Lord to spare him a second trip to the electric chair.

"I'm not nervous," boasted the stuttering 18-year-old Negro slayer, although visibly shaking and nibbling at his fingernails. "I won't be afraid to go to the chair again.

"But tell the folks I'm still praying mighty hard. The Lord might still save me."

Yesterday the Supreme Court in Washington refused to rule in the case of the boy who escaped death May 3 when the electric chair failed to function. His attorney, Bertrand de Blanc, had appealed to the nation's highest tribunal after the Louisiana Supreme Court had declined to intervene.

De Blanc contended that sending Willie to the chair again would violate constitutional provisions banning cruel and unusual punishment and placing a person in jeopardy twice for the same offense.

At the state capitol in Baton Rouge George Wallace, executive counsel to Gov. Jimmie Davis, said the governor would issue a second death warrant for Francis as soon as official word was received of the Supreme Court's action.

'Electrocution-proof' boy not normal

ST. MARTINVILLE, La.—Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Francis, parents of 17-year-old Willie Francis, condemned slayer who recently caused some consternation hereabouts when he emerged merely "tickled" from the electrocution chamber, disclosed here last week that their son was not normal as a child.

Willie, whose second execution was postponed until June 7 at the intervention of NAACP, was the youngest of their 14 children, they said. As a child, he perpetrated several harmless pranks which made neighbors and friends suspect that he might be insane.

Willie Francis Wins Another Reprieve

Gov. James Davis of Louisiana granted a "reprieve until further order" to Willie Francis, 17-year-old whose life was spared last month when Louisiana's portable electric chair failed to function properly. The announcement followed the refusal of the State Pardon Board to commute Willie's sentence to life imprisonment. It was indicated that the reprieve would remain in effect until the question of whether Willie must "die" again is decided by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Louisianans See Hand Of God In Francis Execution Failure

By FRED ATWATER
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

NEW ORLEANS — In years to come, visitors to this colorful stronghold of Christianity may listen in rapt silence to a thrilling legend of the boy, Willie Francis, "upon whom God saw fit to put His hand and thereby save him from death in the electric chair."

Whether 17-year-old Willie becomes a legendary figure or not, many are his defenders against a second execution who see in his first return from the chair, unharmed, on May 3 a sequel to the Prophet Daniel's venture into the cage of lions with the faith of God on his side.

The chair that spared Willie has taken the life of another victim since its now nationally famous May 3 faltering.

The fate of the youngster, who allegedly confessed the murder of a white St. Martinville, La., druggist, rests at this time in the hands of the state pardon commission, headed by Lt. Gov. Emile Verret. After a thorough examination of affidavits and testimony, the three-man commission must recommend to Gov. James H. Davis whether the youth should return to the seat of death or to the state of Texas where an assault and robbery charge awaits him.

Pleas For Pardon

The pardon commission has heard pleas of numerous ministers of various faiths for the sparing of the boys' life. Representing the Interdenominational Ministers Association, Dr. A. O. Wilson of the AME Church, appeared before the commission and told its members that "the torture that this condemned youngster went through was punishment enough" and asked them to spare his life. His plea was followed by that of Rev. L. L. Haynes, also of New Orleans.

Nowhere in the state, however, is religious significance more tightly bound to the Francis case than in St. Martinville, alleged scene of the lad's crime. Here, the townspeople have exhibited an indescribable tenseness since the details of the unsuccessful execution became known.

Believed Subnormal

More than a few St. Martinville inhabitants who strongly feel that the wrath of God may be visited upon the town if Willie Francis' life is taken.

The state's humanitarian element contends that it is bestial to electrocute a 17-year-old boy, even if the crime was actually committed by him. In addition, this element supports the opinions of many medical men that the youth is mentally subnormal.

Through it all, Willie Francis awaits, not too patiently, the outcome.

Save Willie Francis

17-YEAR-OLD Willie Francis, confessed St. Martinville, La. slayer of a white druggist, sits now in a precarious position. Doomed to die he was miraculously saved when the voltage of the state's portable electric chair failed to kill him. The NAACP immediately filed a plea with the State Supreme Court on the basis that another electrocution attempt would be a case of double jeopardy and unnecessary cruelty. This plea has been rejected by the court and now leaves only one channel and that is to throw Willie Francis' case on the mercy of the state pardon board.

There may be pros and cons on whether Willie Francis is guilty or not in view of circulating rumors and information unearthed by this publication and publicized last week. Whether Willie Francis is a victim of Bayou intrigue or should have had a competent attorney at the beginning of his trial to defend him with a plea of insanity is now too late to become an issue. The main issue now is that we must not see this youth placed in double jeopardy and subjected to more inhuman cruelty in the agony of an electric chair.

The first execution has failed. . . The hope set in the State Supreme Court has failed . . . and now the one last glimmer of a hope hovers over the horizon awaiting action. This action shouldn't be left entirely up to the NAACP which has done a wonderful job so far in interceding for Francis. Now is the time for the public to act. Send letters. . . Send telegrams. . . Send postcards. . . Send petitions. . . Send them to Lt. Governor J. Emile Verrett, who heads the Pardon Board. Ask the State Pardon Board to be more considerate of the circumstances of the case which has aroused public sentiment throughout the nation . . . and ask them to avoid any more inhuman treatment and save Willie Francis' life.

Court Refuses To Save Youth From Chair

Louisville, Ky. Courier-Journal

New Orleans, May 15 (AP)—Louisiana's Supreme Court ruled today that a man may be required to sit more than once in the electric chair.

Justices unanimously refused to interfere with the scheduled electrocution of 18-year-old Willie Francis, the St. Martinville Negro slayer who made one trip to the chair and came away unharmed because the equipment failed.

Further Appeal Planned.

Attorneys said they would seek to only avenues of escape which remain—the State Pardon Board and the federal courts.

"My client must not go to the chair," said Bertrand de Blanc, St. Martinville lawyer. "Such physical torture would shock the good people of the country. I am planning to carry this case into the federal courts on the grounds of double jeopardy, cruel and unusual punishment and deprivation of life without due process of law."

De Blanc also declared that he would seek clemency from the pardon board.

Reprieve Is In Effect.

Francis, sentenced to die for killing a St. Martinville druggist, was held in the death cell of the New Iberia jail. A reprieve granted by Lieutenant Governor Emile Verret to permit time for the Supreme Court action will expire June 7.

The Supreme Court held that it had no authority to set aside the order of execution, and that it also lacked authority to issue a commutation or pardon.

Since it failed with Francis, the chair has been repaired. It was used last week to electrocute another Negro at Leesville.

Clemency Denied To Willie Francis

In Baton Rouge, Gov. Davis had no immediate comment, but a spokesman in his office said a new reprieve probably would be issued Francis after he had survived the equipment failed to function. An executive reprieve granted tomorrow or tomorrow because the first attempt by the state to electrocute Francis' appeal for a review by the Supreme Court.

NEW ORLEANS, June 3 (AP)—today or tomorrow Court had approved execution date for Willie Francis, 18, St. Martinville Negro, who escaped death in the electric chair May 3 because fused by unanimous vote commutation of the death

16e 1946 Louisiana (Willie Francis

'Lucky Willie' Loses; Board Denies Plea

Courier

BULLETIN

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The Pardon Board unanimously refused Willie Francis clemency. Electrocution, June 7, stands. Local NAACP contacting Thurgood Marshall concerning expediency of seeking lunacy commission hearing as last possible resort of defense counsel.

By GEORGE GETZE, Courier Special Writer

NEW ORLEANS—Louisiana's Pardon Board will decide within a week whether Willie Francis, St. Martinville youth, again must occupy the electric chair which previously failed to snuff out his life. The board, last Friday night, took the commutation appeal under advisement and will make the announcement Saturday whether the 17-year-old convicted slayer of a druggist must keep his June 7 date with the State's portable electric chair.

DeBLANC MAKES PLEA

Bertrand DeBlanc, fiery little lawyer, pleaded with the board to commute the sentence from death to life imprisonment. Lieut. Gov. Emile Verret, Attorney General Fred LeBlanc and Trial Judge James D. Simon sat on the board.

DeBlanc based his appeal to the board on two grounds. First, he argued that a differentiation exists between the "legal" meaning of the phrase "double jeopardy," and the "moral" interpretation of the words.

The Supreme Court of Louisiana previously ruled that Francis' life would not be placed in "double jeopardy" were he again to be sent to the electric chair, inasmuch as the chair was not functioning, his life was in no actual danger at the attempted execution.

HAD ALREADY "DIED"

As opposed to this "legal" view, DeBlanc argued that Willie had died "in his mind, at least, as much as any man could."

He also said there were numerous groups in the United States who were anxious that Francis be made a martyr, so that he might be used by them to disturb "the racial harmony that has always existed in Louisiana."

During the course of his argument, DeBlanc presented a copy of Francis' birth certificate, showing him to have been born Jan. 20, 1929, thus having been only fifteen years of age at the time the crime was committed.

Atty. A. P. Tureaud, in a powerful and moving plea, sought the board's mercy, not only because of the ordeal through which the defendant had already passed, but also because of his extreme youth.

Others who made pleas before the board for the commutation of Willie's sentence were: Father Charles Hannegan, the Rev. L. L. Haynes, president of the New Orleans branch of the NAACP, and the Rev. A. C. Moore, representing the Baptist congregations.

FRANCIS UNSCATHED

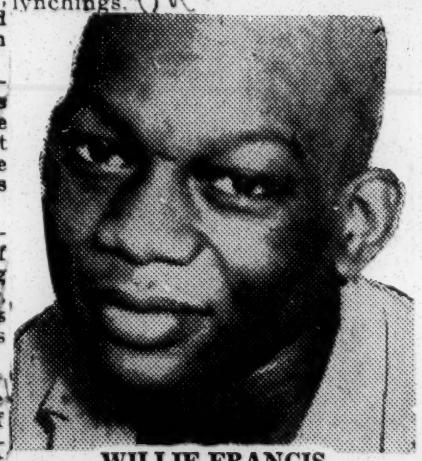
Warden D. D. Baser of Angola Penitentiary, testified that, in his opinion, it was impossible for any electricity to have reached Francis' body. He, together with other witnesses, stated that there were absolutely no burns or marks of any kind on the youth's body after he emerged from his ordeal.

Dr. S. D. Yongue, coroner of St. Martin Parish; Capt. Eaton Foster, State policeman in charge of the portable chair, and Vincent Venzia, inmate of the penitentiary and electrician, also testified that no electricity had entered the body of the prisoner.

WANTED IN TEXAS

Sheriff E. L. Resweber revealed that Francis is wanted in Texas for assault and robbery on a Port Arthur man. He said that Texas authorities were anxious that Willie be turned over to them if the pardon board in Louisiana should set him free.

L. O. Pecot, attorney general for St. Mary, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, argued that a commutation of sentence in the Francis case would be a reversal by the board of the thought-out decision arrived at by a competent jury. He added that such a reversal would lessen public confidence in the trial by jury and would "encourage lynchings."



WILLIE FRANCIS

The Story:

The AFRO has asked attorneys in four cities the question, "Can a Man Die Twice?"

The man involved is 17-year-old Willie Francis, confessed slayer of a druggist in St. Martinsville, La., who escaped death May 3 when the State's electric chair failed. Francis is scheduled to make a second trip to death on June 7.

Meanwhile the State Supreme Court denied the contention of the NAACP that there are any evidences of cruel and inhuman punishment or violations of Federal rights. It holds that there are no legal grounds to stay a second execution.

Governor May Act

A petition has been filed with the State Board of Pardons requesting a recommendation to Louisiana's Governor Davis that Francis's sentence be commuted.

They Say Yes:

Robert Nix, Philadelphia criminal barrister, said: "Legally the sentence is not executed until the boy is dead. The sentence was electrocution, which means that a current of electricity is to pass through his body until he is dead. Whether it took one application or ten to carry out this sentence does not matter legally.

"Considering the case humanely," Nix continued, "the youth's life should be spared. He suffered untold mental torture anticipating his electrocution. Commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment would still serve the ends of justice."

John F. Williams, another Philly attorney, agreed. "Technically the youth hasn't been electrocuted because the apparatus didn't work."

J. Leroy Jordan, of Elizabeth, N.J., had this to say: "The mere fact that the first attempt failed does not satisfy the statute which authorizes the sentence of death by electrocution.

"Failure of the original effort is no legal reason why it should not be carried out."

Perry Howard, D.C. attorney, agreed. He said, "As a legal proposition, the State can continue to attempt to electrocute the boy until the orders of the court are carried out."

Leon Ransom, another Washington lawyer, stated "Aside from the moral issues involved, the State is within its legal rights to attempt execution again."

They Say No:

George W. Gregory, Newark attorney, said, "It would be illegal to subject Francis to electrocution again on the ground that his life has already been in jeopardy.

"If the case is carried to the U.S. Supreme Court, his life would be spared. As a basic principle of Constitutional law, a second attempt to execute him would subject him to cruel, abusive and unwarranted punishment."

J. Bernard Johnson, also of Newark, declared, "Francis cannot legally be put in the chair again. To do so would violate the clause of the U.S. Constitution which provides that no person shall twice be put in jeopardy of his life."

Josiah F. Henry Jr., Baltimore lawyer, said, "A person can neither be made to suffer punishment twice for the same offense nor to undergo peril of being subjected to such punishment."

E. Everett Lane, also of Baltimore, stated "Psychologically, Willie Francis was dead after the first attempt to electrocute him."

Linwood Koger, Baltimore, said "Legend has handed it down through many centuries that an mishap in an execution voids the execution."

John H. Wilson, Washington attorney, declared, "The status of the youth is not that of being placed in double jeopardy since he has been tried and convicted only once. However, whether it is lawful to make another attempt to electrocute him would depend entirely on the construction of Louisiana law."

Charles Houston of Washington said "Under the common law, if authorities tried to hang a man once and he lived, they could not attempt to hang him again."

Herbert C. Nelson of Ardmore, Pa., stated that the wording of the sentence is all-important. If it said simply "electrocution," then the sentence has been officially carried out, and any further attempt to kill Francis would be in violation of the Constitution prohibiting double jeopardy.

If the sentence reads "until dead," this is something else again, Nelson said.

Willie Francis Should Not Die

Courier

Willie Francis, who has walked the "Last Mile" down in Louisiana and survived because the electric chair did not work, should not again have his life placed in jeopardy.

Such an act would be contrary to American practice and the wishes of most of the American people, and moreover would violate the principle of double jeopardy.

The NAACP board of directors has asked that his sentence be commuted from death to life imprisonment because he has been "electrocuted once."

Even this seems to us to be too severe punishment because it is quite clear that this young Negro is mentally unbalanced if the statements attributed to him are true.

He admits that he is guilty of murdering a man, but says that he does not know why he did so since the victim had done nothing to him except befriend him.

Surely such a man as Willie Francis belongs not in prison, but in an insane asylum, and should not have been sentenced to death in the first place.

Unfortunates who have committed worse crimes than Willie Francis are being sent to mental institutions every day instead of standing trial, being found guilty and executed.

If they are so treated, why not Willie Francis?

Francis Case Set for Highest Court

BATON ROUGE, La.—The appeal of Willie Francis, condemned youth who escaped death in Louisiana's electric chair last May 3 "by an act of God," will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court within the next ten days, according to a report from the State's attorney general's office here last Thursday.

Attorney General Fred S. LeBlanc said he had been informed by the clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court that the case would be argued about Oct. 18.

The appeal was taken to the high court on a writ of certiorari granted by the Louisiana Supreme Court, after Francis's attorney obtained a stay from a second execution attempt at St. Martinville.

The Law and Willie Francis

NEW YORK—On May 3, a 17-year-old Negro boy, named Willie Francis, was led to the electric chair in New Iberia, La., to be put to death for murder. He was strapped in the death chair last May. Although the switch was thrown and the trial court and the prisoner who ordered that Francis should be placed in the electric chair and had come loose and it is doubtful that any current at all passed through his body that he was at least "tickled" and puffing of the lips. Willie Francis has been reprieved until the Supreme Court his insane concept of dignity, apparently contend, has through him, although he says he felt the heat of the attachments on his head and leg and others of who were present observed some of the court and according to law of the familiar reactions of human which, in the end, relieves this beings in the chair, such as convulsion and stately official act of the brutality of long premeditated murder. Hitler, in his early days, and with

WESTBROOK PEGLER

Sentenced to die for the murder of a St. Martinsville (La.) druggist, the young Negro was strapped in the death chair last May. Although the switch was thrown and the trial court and the prisoner who ordered that Francis should be placed in the electric chair and had come loose and it is doubtful that any current at all passed through his body that he was at least "tickled" and puffing of the lips. Willie Francis has been reprieved until the Supreme Court his insane concept of dignity, apparently contend, has through him, although he says he felt the heat of the attachments on his head and leg and others of who were present observed some of the court and according to law of the familiar reactions of human which, in the end, relieves this beings in the chair, such as convulsion and stately official act of the brutality of long premeditated murder. Hitler, in his early days, and with

FIGHT 2D 'ELECTROCUTION' The Times

Lawyers Argue in High Court to Save Youth Who Escaped Chair

New York, N.Y.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (AP)— The Supreme Court heard argument today on whether putting 17-year-old Willie Francis in Louisiana's electric chair for a second time would constitute "cruel and unusual punishment."

Lawyers seeking to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment say he was at least "tickled" and described his escape as an "act of God."

Attorneys for the State of Louis-

Mid. 11-20-46

Francis felt no current because a not been done so far.

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Francis Case Set for Highest Court

The Afro American Baltimore, Md.

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pointed a headsman in formal evening dress who lopped off heads with an axe. In some of our Western states we have tried the firing squad and the lethal gas chamber but, though these methods may be less painful in the final instant than hanging, beheading and the electric shock, the torture of contemplating remains and Willie Francis has gone through all that and the final act as well, in which he played his part fully, according to the law, and lived to tell of it only because the State fell down.

I was in the prison yard at Carson, Nev., a few years ago and unwittingly found myself in the death house, which I took to be a refrigerator. Around the yard, in the shade of the high wall, idle men were rotting with nothing to do. A few were working in a shop making license plates for automobiles, a few were playing catch and a few were making hat ornaments out of horse hair.

As we entered the death house I saw a man in slacks and a white shirt pacing his cell and swatting flies. I grinned amiably, still not knowing what this place was, and with a look that I cannot describe, he turned his back. The principal keeper then led me into the gas chamber a few feet away and, in a voice clearly audible to the man in the cell, explained how it worked and how the stethoscope running out through the double window, to the ears of the official doctor, would tell when the man was dead. He heard it all and he gave us his back as we went out. What would you have said to him? "Good luck" or "Glad to have seen you?"

HE WAS a very game man, a gambler who had killed his wife and refused to apply for commutation because that would mean life in the same idle uselessness that he could see about him through the open door. The Governor, when I saw him later in the day, seemed relieved for if the gambler persisted in his determination, that meant that he would not have to pass on an appeal for clemency.

In Arizona, two years back, there was an execution in the chamber of the prison at Florence and the stories in the papers told us that the father of the young man, a poor Mexican or Latin-American, from the desert country, waited outside the death house with a buckboard and blankets to carry the body back home for burial. Then he drove off with his boy dead in the buckboard.

We kill and we turn over the bodies of the dead to their families and the anguish is inflicted not only on the guilty, themselves, who may have killed in panic on the instant, but on their mothers and sisters.

OF COURSE, capital punishment has been debated endlessly and our laws inflicting the death penalty express our pathetic inability to work out any other deterrent thus far, not that the death penalty does deter, as our homicide rate shows. Usually, ashamed of all this, we hold these ceremonies in privacy, although in some primitive communities, where formal executions are rare occasions, the public comes trouping to picnics and children have been held up by their mothers above the heads of the crowds to see the man go through the floor. The rest of us regard these as brutal and degrading scenes.

Capital punishment is the law of Louisiana but surely Louisiana is big enough to take responsibility for the failure to kill Willie Francis on the first attempt and white civilization and law and order can waive the continuing torture here inflicted on a boy of 17, who, through no fault of his own, is waiting now to die again.

What has Louisiana got to lose, anyway?

Willie Say' Dat Chair Is Like Mouthful Cold Peanut Butter

BY ELLIOTT CHAZE

NEW IBERIA, La., July 2—(AP)—Willie Francis says it's "plumb mizzuble" to sit in the electric chair.

He says you feel like you got a mouth full of cold peanut butter, and you see little blue and pink and green speckles, the kind that shines in a rooster's tail."

The 17-year-old Negro was strapped and hooded to pay for the life of a St. Martinville druggist last May 3. But something went wrong with the state's portable chair and after the electrocutioner pulled the switch Francis was still alive.

The slim, stammering youth has been reprieved until the U. S. Supreme Court reviews his case. He told his story this way in a jail cell interview:

"They walked me into the room and I saw the chair and sat down on it. I knowed it was a bad chair.

* * *

"I TRIED TO REMEMBER what Father Hannigan told me in my cell, about being a lucky fella to know when I was going to die. He told me most people don't know and some of them ain't ready, like those who get squashed by trucks on the road and those who die between clean sheets by surprise, right in their own family homes.

"But all I could think was:

"'Willie, you're going out'a this world.'

"They begun to strap me against the chair and everything begun to look dizzy in the room. It was like the white folks watching was in a big swing and they'd swing away back and then right up close to me where I could hear them breathing.

"I didn't think about my whole life like at the picture show.

"Just, 'Willie, you're going outa this world in this bad chair.'

"Sometimes I thought it so loud it hurt my head and when they put the black bag over my head I was all locked up inside the bag with the loud thinking.

"I RECKON DYING IS BLACK. Some folks say it's gold. Some say it's white as hominy grits. I been mighty close. I reckon it's black.

"The electric man said 'Goodbye, Willie.'

"He could be been putting me on a bus for New Orleans, the way he said it, and I tried to say goodbye, but my tongue got stuck in the peanut butter and I felt a burning in my head and my left leg, and I jumped against the straps.

"When the straps kept cutting me I hoped I was alive and I asked the electric man to let me breathe. That's when they took the bag off my head."

Willie insists that when the switch was thrown he got some of the current.

So does young Bertrand Deblanc, of Layfayette, La., his attorney. Deblanc holds signed affidavits from witnesses, one of them a priest, saying that Willie's lips "puffed out" and he rocked the chair, jamming his feet against the floor when the switch was thrown. The hood did not cover Francis' mouth.

The electrician in charge testified that a wire "worked loose" and that no current entered Francis' body. However, under questioning by Deblanc before the State Pardon Board, during Deblanc's recent attempt to have Francis' sentence commuted to life imprisonment, the electrician said he could not be certain about the current.

THE CASE NOW RESTS with the U. S. Supreme Court which will review the facts in October and consider Deblanc's plea that a second trip to the chair for Francis would constitute cruel and unusual punishment and "double jeopardy" of the Negro's life.

Probably the best Francis can hope for is life imprisonment. He was sentenced for the shooting of Andrew Thomas, of St. Martinville, during the robbery of Thomas' drugstore.

"I'd be happy to be a cook in the pen. I use to cook for my daddy pretty good and he says I got a knack with mustard greens and sidemeat."

Asked what he'd like to do, if he could stroll scot free from the big white Parish Jail, Francis said he'd like to be a priest.

Father Hannigan, a parish priest who has prepared many men for death, is Francis' hero. Father Hannigan told Francis the electric chair was going to "tickle." The priest said recently that the closest thing to a reproach he ever heard from Willie was during an interview after the execution fluke:

"Willie looked at me very seriously and said: 'Father, it tickled—but it hurt, too.'"

Only Man Ever to 'Cheat' Death Chair Just Prayin' Supreme Court Saves Him

High Tribunal To Review Case

New Iberia, La., Sept. 28 (AP)—Willie Francis slammed his fist against his knee and said:

"Boss, I ain't expectin' nothin' —I'm just prayin' to God and hopin'."

The Negro, only man to ever cheat the electric chair, referred to the United States Supreme Court's pledge to review his case next month. Francis was strapped into the State's portable electric chair last May to pay for the life of Andrew Thomas, a St. Martinville druggist, whom he was convicted of killing during a robbery. But something went wrong with the chair and Francis tottered back to his cell still alive.

Sitting on the bunk of his concrete cell in the parish jail here, Willie said in an interview:

Wants to Be Pen Cook.

"I'd mightily like to be a cook at the State Pen. I can cook pretty good. I don't want to sit in that bad chair again."

His attorney, Bertrand S. Deblanc, seeks commutation of sentence from death to life imprisonment, on the ground that a second trip to the chair for Francis would consitute "cruel and unusual punishment."

Louisiana's massive portable chair snuffed out the life of another convicted killer one week after it failed to end Francis' life.

Deblanc has insisted that only "an act of God" allowed Francis to walk away from the death chair and Francis tottered back to his cell still alive.

Says Francis:

Reads Bible Now.

"I don't rightly know why I was spared. I just don't know. But I'm readin' my Bible and I'm thinkin' and prayin'."

There is a seedly little carnival set up in the lot next to the jail. Francis says he likes to look at the ferris wheel at night, "the way the lights go round and round and I can hear the folks laughin'." He says it's different hearing folks laugh. Willie recovered his appetite for nickel candy since he sat in the electric chair, paper wrappers of stale bars that folks laugh bars, even licking the waxed-paper wrappers of stale bars that he says, "but I had lain around the cell for them laugh," weeks.

Attorney Confident.

Deblanc has, also, what seemed to be a supreme faith in the luck of Willie Francis, or rather in Francis' divine connections.

And after all, Willie Francis, in some respects, is not an ordinary man.

Commutation Refused.

After his conviction and freak Deblanc faces the Supreme didn't do Court review with apparent con-self. His case to the Lou-

Walter White

Defender Chicago, Ill.

How It Feels

A TALENTED friend of mine, moved by an interview with 17-year-old Willie Francis in the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, has written in ballad form the deeply moving and poetic story of how it feels to sit in an electric chair. What a miracle that a virtually illiterate (but far from ignorant or untalented) boy should think in imagery as deeply moving and beautiful as any contemporary poet. If we are able to save Willie Francis' life, would it not be a gift not to him but to America if we could develop his unvalued gifts and wouldn't you like to hear this ballad read over the air by an artist like Paul Robeson or Orson Welles? I certainly would.

Sat. 8-31-46



"Willie Knowed It Was A Bad Chair"

(A Contemporary Ballad)

In Iberia, Louisiana
Willie Francis says . . .
It's plum mizzuble to sit in an electric chair
He says . . .
You feel like you got a mouthful of cold peanut butter and you see
Little blue and pink and green speckles in front of your eyes . . .
The kind that shines in a rooster's tail.
Last May, Willie was strapped and hooded
Last May, Willie was doomed to die
For the life of a St. Martinsville druggist
Willie still says
He didn't go to kill him . . .
Willie still says
It was an accident
But the Court said different
So—Willie was strapped to die . . .
Willie knowed it was a bad chair
He told his story this way in his jail cell . . .
They walked me into the room, he said,
And I saw the chair
And I sat down on it . . .
I knowed it was a bad chair
Willie knowed all along it was a bad chair
All I could think was
'Willie, you're going out'n this world . . .'
They begun to strap me against the chair
And everything begun to look
Dazey . . .
In the room
It was like the
White folks watching was
On a big
Swing
And they swung away back
And then right up
Close
To me where I could hear their
Everything.
I didn't think about my whole life
Like at the picture show . . .
Willie knowed it was a bad chair.
Sometimes I thought it so loud, Willie said
It hurt my head . . .
And when they
Put the black bag over my head I was all locked up
Inside the bag
With the . . .
Loud thinking . . .
Willie knowed it was a bad chair
I reckon, he said, dying is black
Some folks say it's gold
Some say it's white as hominy grits
I reckon . . .
It's black
I ought to know
I been mighty close
Willie knowed it was a bad chair
The electric man said
'Goodbye Willie'
He could have been putting me on a bus for New Orleans the way he
Said it and I tried to say goodbye but my tongue got stuck in the
Peanut butter . . .
And I felt a burning in my head
And my left leg
And I jumped against the straps . . .
Willie knowed it was a bad chair
Willie knowed all along it was a bad chair.
When the straps kept cutting me
Willie said in his jail cell
I hoped I was alive
And I asked the electric man to
Let me
Breath . . .
That's when they took the bag off his head . . .
And the priest said
Willie's lips puffed out . . .
The priest said
He rocked in the chair
Jamming his feet against the floor
When the switch was thrown . . .
Willie knowed it was a bad chair
The electric man said he wasn't sure
But Willie was sure
Willie knowed it was a bad chair
Willie proved . . .
God didn't want him to die.

LOUISIANA

Black Is the Color

Time, New York, 7-15-46

"I reckon dyin' is black. Some folks say it's gold. Some say it's white as hominy grits . . . I reckon it's black."

Willie Francis ought to know what color death is. The skinny, slope-headed, 17-year-old Louisiana Negro saw and tasted death on May 3 as he sat and waited for it, strapped in Louisiana's portable electric chair. It tasted "like cold peanut butter," and took on "little blue and pink and green speckles, like shines in a rooster's tail" when the executioner whispered: "Goodbye, Willie."

But the executioner was crowding fate. For the first time in 24 tries, the chair failed to work. Convicted murderer Francis walked back to his cell to pray, and eat candy, and remember:

"They walked me into the room and I saw the chair . . . I knowed it was a bad chair. All I could think was: 'Willie, you goin' out'n this world.'

"They begun to strap me in the chair, and everything begun to look dazey . . . It was like the white folks watching was in a big swing, and they'd swing away and back and then right up close. When they put the black bag over my head, I was all locked up . . . with loud thinkin'.

"The electric man . . . could of been puttin' me on the bus for New Orleans the way he said 'goodbye,'" Willie recalled, "and I tried to say goodbye but my tongue got stuck in the peanut butter and I felt a burnin' in my head and my left leg and I jumped against the straps.

"When the straps kept cuttin' me I hoped I was alive, and I asked the electric man to let me breathe. . . . They took the bag off my head. . ."

While he waited for October and the U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether he would have to face death twice, stolid, stuttering Willie Francis gave the world the sum of his experience. It was "plumb mizzuble."

Francis Case 'Without Legal Precedent' Argued Before Supreme Court

The Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La. Sat. 11-23-46

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Attorney Wright also said another attempt at execution would be a violation of the lad's right to equal protection.

M. E. Culligan, special assistant to the attorney general of Louisiana, and L. E. Pecot, district attorney for the 16th Judicial Circuit of Louisiana, who are handling the prosecution argued that the Supreme Court did not have jurisdiction in the case.

They cited the sentence requiring that a current of electricity be passed through Francis' body until he was dead. The fact that he was alive proved that the sentence had not been carried out, they said.

Attorney DeBlanc has returned to his home at Lafayette while Mr. Skelly has remained in Washington to handle any complications which may arise. Mr. DeBlanc said he is hopeful that a favorable decision will be handed down within two weeks.

However, the Supreme Court may send the case back to the Louisiana courts to iron out legal technicalities, he said. This would mean added expense and although Mr. DeBlanc has donated his services certain procedures involve a great deal of expense, the attorney explained. Anyone wishing to help out should send donations to Mr. DeBlanc at 227 West Main St., Lafayette, La. Sat. 11-23-46

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WRIGHT ARGUMENT

James Skelly Wright, Washington attorney, argued that if the State had a right to execute Francis, it was bound at its peril to make his death as instant and painless as possible, but its failure to do so has forfeited its right to his life.

The question to be determined is whether Francis is being denied a fundamental right protected against state infringement by the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Mr. Wright also contended that the trial of Francis was "a farce and a travesty on justice." He also pointed out that counsel was appointed by the court to represent him; that no attack on the indictment was filed; that no motion for a change of venue at the trial was introduced in Francis' behalf, and no appeal whatever was taken

Francis To Chair

Justices Indicate Belief Should Escape 2nd Trip

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) — During argument in the United States Supreme Court last Monday of the case of Willie Francis, 17-year old youth who miraculously escaped death in the electric chair four justices indicated they believe

The four justices who broke in

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Sat. 11-23-46

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The question to be determined is whether Francis is being denied a fundamental right protected against state infringement by the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution.

"The historic concepts of double jeopardy and cruel and unusual punishment," Mr. Wright argued, "protects a person from a second punishment for the same offense."

Mr. Wright also contended that the trial of Francis was "a farce and a travesty on justice." He also pointed out that counsel was appointed by the court to represent him; that no attack on the indictment was filed; that no motion for a change of venue at the trial was introduced in Francis' behalf, and no appeal whatever was taken

Justices Indicate Belief Francis Should Escape 2nd Trip To Chair

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Sat. 11-23-46

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Justices of counsel to ask questions, were Associate Justices Stanley F. Reed Felix Frankfurter

from the judgment of conviction—not even a motion for a new trial.

Within eight days after the indictment Francis was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

"This court can never know the full story of the trial of Willie Francis," said Mr. Wright, "because no stenographic record was taken at the trial. Obviously no appeal was contemplated, and there was none.

'It is submitted that the abysmal darkness which shrouds the trial of Willie Francis speaks no less eloquently than the efforts made in behalf before and after that trial by the counsel appointed by the court to represent him,' said Mr. Wright.

MURDER CONVICTION

The record filed in the Supreme Court shows that Francis was condemned by electrocution May 3, last. Francis was prepared for death. The top of his head, his wrists and legs were shaved in order that the connecting parts of the electric chair might be firmly fastened to his body to cause the proper entry of the electric current.

He was given the last rites of the Catholic Church. He was given his last meal. At noon, May 3, he was marched to the electrocution chamber where he was placed in the electric chair.

The connecting apparatus was firmly fixed to his body. He was strapped to the chair and a hood placed over his eyes. He was asked if he had anything to say before he died. He was given the final blessings by his priest in the presence of official witnesses.

On a given signal the current was applied and then reapplied to his body. Francis' lips puffed out and he groaned and jumped so that the electric chair rocked on the floor.

DEATH STANDS BACK

When it was evident that the electricity was not bringing death to him, the electric chair switch was turned off, and Francis was taken from the chair.

Informed of Francis' failure to die in the electric chair, the Governor ordered a "reprieve" until May 9. On May 7, a petition for a writ of habeas corpus was filed in Francis' behalf. The writ was denied the same day.

On May 9, a petition for writs of certiorari, mandamus, prohibition and habeas corpus was filed in Francis' behalf in the Supreme Court of Louisiana and on May 14 a supplemental petition was filed alleging that a second attempt to execute Francis would be in violation of the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution.

The Louisiana Supreme Court denied the petitions. The United States Supreme Court decided to review the case June 6.

Appeal To Supreme Court On Second Death Walk

Defender Chicago, Ill.

WASHINGTON—A second trip to the electric chair for 17-year-old Willie Francis, convicted in 1945 in the killing of Andrew Thomas, would be double punishment and unconstitutional, J. Skelly Wright, his attorney, told the U.S. Supreme Court this week.

At the same time, four justices who broke in on arguments to ask questions, indicated they believed Francis should escape a second ordeal. The youth miraculously escaped death May 3, 1946, when the electric chair refused to function properly. Sat. 11-30-46

The state of Louisiana contends that Francis has not paid the punishment fixed by law for his alleged crime and that the law should take its course.

Wright, Washington attorney, argued that if the state had a right to execute Francis, it was bound at its peril to make his death as instant and painless as possible, but its failure to do so has forfeited its right to his life. The question to be determined is whether Francis is being denied a fundamental right protected against state infringement by the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"The historic concepts of double jeopardy and cruel and unusual punishment," Wright argued, "protects a person from a second punishment for the same offense." Wright also contended that the trial of Francis was a "farce and a travesty on justice." He pointed out that counsel was appointed by court to represent him; that no attack on the indictment was filed; that no motion for a change of venue at the trial was introduced on Francis' behalf, and that no appeal whatever was taken from the judgment of conviction — not even a motion for a new trial. Within eight days after the indictment, Francis was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

"This court can never know the full story of the trial of Willie Francis," said Wright, "because no stenographic record was taken at the trial." Obviously no appeal was contemplated, and there was none.

The governor of Louisiana issued a warrant for execution of Francis by electrocution May 3, 1946. Francis was prepared for death and fastened firmly in the electric chair. On a given signal the current was applied and reapplied to his body. When it was evident that he was not going to die, he was taken from the chair. After several legal petitions had been submitted on Francis' behalf, the U.S. Supreme Court, on June 10, decided to review the case.

Md. Man Gets 15 Years For Slaying Brother

Washington D.C. Post 2-5-46

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 4 (AP).—George W. Parker, 31, Cumberstone, Md., Negro, was convicted of second degree murder in the death of his brother, Wilson Parker, 27, and sentenced to 15 years in the house of corection today.

Judge James Clark of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court sentenced the defendant after it was testified he had fired at another Negro and shot his brother in a Christmas Eve altercation on an Annapolis street.

Jones Boy Freed, Brother Convicted

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-22-46

BALTIMORE

Justice triumphed over Eastern Shore mob rule on Thursday, when Holbrook Jones, 15, was freed from a life imprisonment sentence, although his 18-year-old brother Welton, still faces death on the gallows on a fire-degree murder conviction.

Ending a three-day session here during which the Chance, Md. boys were ably defended by NAACP attorneys of Washington and Baltimore, the three-judge Criminal Court tribunal cleared Holbrook of participation in the shooting of a white oyster packer but found Welton guilty.

Judges Herman Moser, John T. Tucker and Chief Judge W. Conwell Smith withheld sentence for Welton pending a new trial motion by his attorneys.

He had been sentenced to be hanged in March, 1945, by a Salisbury Court, while Holbrook, then 14, was sent to jail for life.

Eastern Shore Ruled Out

The first trial, conducted only 30 miles from the boys' home where they were saved by State troopers from possible mob violence, was marked by a tense atmosphere, which was flayed by the Court of Appeals when it ordered new trials for the teen-age brothers.

Counsel for the boys during the retrial were Charles Houston, noted NAACP counsel of Washington; W. A. C. Hughes, local NAACP attorney, who defended the boys on the Eastern Shore, and Joseph Watty, also of the Washington bureau office.

Houston Brilliant

Throughout the trial, Mr. Houston was the central figure as his relentless cross-examination slowly but deliberately broke down the testimony of the 25 white Eastern Shore residents and troopers produced by the State.

Following the trial, the parents sat bathed in tears of frustration over not quite understanding the verdicts; joy in the acquittal of Holbrook; and worry over the future fate of Welton.

"I'll never take my boy back to the Eastern Shore," Mrs. Jones sobbed as guards told her she would be able to carry Holbrook from the courthouse with her.

Three Condemned Men Captured After Escape

Birmingham News
Dealer?

JACKSON, Miss., Feb. 22—(AP)—Three prisoners condemned to die are back in death row of Hinds County Jail after an escape attempt Wednesday night in which, Deputy Sheriff J. T. Naugher said, they severely beat C. M. Herring, 215-pound jailer.

Herring was "resting quietly" at Jackson Infirmary where he was undergoing treatment for arm and head injuries suffered when he was struck with steel bludgeons, Naugher said. Fri 2-22-46

Naugher identified the condemned man as Willie McGee, Laurel Negro, sentenced to death on conviction of charge of attacking a white woman in Jones County; Sherman Stree, Jackson Negro sentenced to die for attacking a young white girl here, and Charles Holloway, slated to die April 4 for armed robbery in Holly Springs.

GI Doomed Again in Murder Trial

Journal & Courier
Lafayette, Ind. 3-2-23-46

JACKSON, Miss.—(ANP)—Sandy McGee, charged with the murder of Ernest Conn, white cafe worker of Utica, was found "guilty as charged" and sentenced to death for the second time here last week. Judge Hugh Gillisped set the date of execution for March 22.

Negro Dies For Murder Of Another Negro

Memphis Tenn.
Fri. 3-22-46

LAUREL, Miss.—(Special)— For the first time in many months the the state of Mississipi exacted the supreme penalty from a Negro for murder of another Negro. Roosevelt Morgan died in the electric chair in the Jones County Jail here Tuesday for the murder of David Allen.

Morgan was convicted last Oct. for the murder of Allen in a shooting in which his wife was killed and his son-in-law wounded.

TWO YOUTHS, 14 AND 15 MUST DIE

Clarksdale Miss. Press
Kansas City Kansas

Jackson, Miss.—The barbarism of Mississippi so-called justice is not always fully realized. Two boys—hardly more than children—were sentenced to die in the electric chair on April 26. They have been granted a reprieve until September 2, but both still face the chair unless outside aid can rescue them. Friday 6-14-46

One of the boys, Charles Truedell, is 15; the other, James Lewis, is 14. They are accused of the shooting on March 30 of a white man for whom they worked after school hours. Clarksdale

Claim Innocence

Both have steadfastly maintained their innocence, according to young

Sister's Plea Fails to Save Life of Boy, 15

After writing four separate letters to the Governor of Mississippi, pleading for the lives of her 15-year-old brother, Charles Truedell, and his friend, 14-year-old James Lewis, Mrs. Willie Mae White of Los Angeles, finally received a reply from the governor's office in Jackson, Miss. Kansas City Kan

The letter, dated May 29, and signed by Alex McKeigney, executive secretary, states briefly that they have made inquiries into the matter and find that an appeal is now pending before the State Supreme Court. Following the decision, the letter continues, further consideration will be given the case. Friday 6-14-46

The two boys are sentenced to die in the electric chair for the alleged murder of a white man, although they are said to have steadfastly maintained their innocence

14 And 15-Year-Old Boys Sentenced To Death For Murder Of Farmer

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

CENTERVILLE, Miss.—(Special) — Two boys, 14 and 15 years old were sentenced to death in the electric chair here last week for the alleged murder of Harry McKey, a white farmer and small sawmill operator. Receiving the death sentence were James Lewis age 14, and Charles Trudell, age 15. Fri. 3-22-46

According to reports the two boys were arrested in Natchez Miss., after McKay was shot in the back, had been found dead at his farm home near here.

According to reports of the trials of the two boys which were held separately no motive for the murder was given, but they were convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair on a confession they were alleged to have made to Sheriff Richard Whitaker who arserted them in Natchez.

As far as could be learned there was no indication of an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Secret Mississippi Trials Doom One, Take Life Of Second

Chicago Defender
Chicago Ill

INDIANOLA, Miss.—A secret trial and conviction last week doomed a Negro youth to death, as the charred remains of 28-year-old Lever Alonzo Bush, secretly electrocuted after a similar trial, were buried here.

As progressive whites throughout the nation demanded immediate action to save the life of the second youth, details of Rush's secret trial and electrocution leaked out of this quiet Mississippi town. Charged with having sexual relations with a white woman, Rush was absolved of all suspicion of rape when the girl revealed that he neither forced nor persuaded her to have relations with him, but that she willingly submitted to their relationship over a four-year period.

Electrocuted Friday

Sat 3-1-46

Electrocuted early Friday morning, Rush received especially brutal treatment, according to workers at a funeral home in Mound Bayou where the body was sent. Instead of the usual 30-second shock, a five-minute current seared the body almost beyond recognition.

Telegrams to President Truman, Atty. Gen. Tom Clark and Mississippi's Governor Bailey were sent by numerous Negro leaders to save the life of the unidentified youth similarly implicated, whose electrocution is reportedly set for early June. Sat 6-11-46

Negro Is Given Life In Poisoning Of Well

The Mirror
Birmingham, Ala.

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss., Aug. 2—(AP)—The Holly Springs well-poisoning case—marked by six deaths and at least 20 violent illnesses—has been closed. Thurs. 8-29-46

A 28-year-old Negro farm worker, J. B. Wooten, pleaded guilty to murder in connection with the case and was sentenced yesterday to lifetime imprisonment. Sheriff Lawrence Tucker said Wooten had admitted throwing arsenic in a community well near here last June in hopes his estranged wife would become ill and allow him to visit her.

Six Negroes who drank from the well died.

Dixie Justice Sentences Vet To Six Years

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 9-21-46

TYLERTOWN, Miss.—Fearful that it might lose a prisoner, Dixie "justice" oiled its wheels and sent a Negro veteran to jail for six years, three full weeks before the trial was originally scheduled to be opened.

Victim of Southern law is 25-year-old Edro Taylor, who after being beaten, shot, jailed and again beaten by town police, was tried without defense Wednesday, Aug. 14, on a charge of assault and battery and attempt to kill. He was pronounced guilty by Circuit Judge S. S. Quinn and sentenced to serve six years at Parchman Penitentiary.

On report that a veteran had been shot and jailed in this town, the NAACP two weeks ago instructed an investigator to come to the community and gather facts on the case and the pending trial. The organization had been informed that Taylor would face trial in September.

The investigator found, upon his arrival, that Taylor had already undergone trial, and was at that moment in the Parchman penitentiary.

According to reports, Taylor who had served 24 months in the Pacific theatre, was honorably discharged from the navy on Christmas Day. On Saturday, Jan. 5 he was seated in a restaurant owned and operated by Hiberd Esco, when there was a disturbance behind the building.

Flask Thrown

It was reported that one of a group of Negroes had carelessly thrown an empty flask narrowly missing a white man, Lloyd Simmons, owner of the property. Simmons called the police and four plain clothesmen, town marshall Albert Sullivan, and Officers Otha Yarber, Fred Fortenberry and Albert Futch answered the summons.

Upon seeing no one in back of the building, Sullivan left and the officers began beating Negroes inside the restaurant. Taylor, it is reported, started to leave the place but was pushed back by Yarber, who beat him across the head with his club. Defender

Taylor, it is said, pulled a knife and began swinging at the men who were blocking the door. Futch was cut and Fortenberry was scratched, according to witnesses.

Shot By Officer Chicago, Ill.

At this point the men turned on Taylor and Futch shot him in the right side. As Taylor fell the officers continued to beat him, later taking him to the city jail where they continued the assault. A mob of white men was reported to have formed with intentions of removing him from the jail for a "lynching party." Sat. 9-21-46

Marshall Sullivan reappeared however and had the wounded man taken to the hospital, where he was handcuffed and his legs shackled in a spread eagle fashion across the bed. Taylor remained in the hospital for three months and was then returned to jail, fined and sentenced.

JURY CONVICTS NEGRO OF PART IN GUN FIGHT

Times New York, N.Y.

RALEIGH, Miss., Nov. 2 (AP)—A jury in the Circuit Court late this afternoon convicted Johnny Craft, a Negro and former Marine, of assault and battery with intent to kill in connection with a night gun battle in Sullivan Hollow last August. Four white men were shot and wounded in the affray.

The jury of twelve white men deliberated for twenty-one minutes after argument of eighty minutes, and returned their verdict just after 4 P. M.

Dixon Pyles of Jackson, chief of the defense counsel, announced that the case will be appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Judge Homer Currie, who presided, deferred the sentencing of Craft. He indicated that the cases of our other defendants, three Negroes and one white farmer, would be called for trial next week. All face the same charge.

The verdict was returned in a quiet court room, without any show of feeling, such as led to a forty-eight-hour man hunt through Smith County last August, when the white men went to the Craft home to investigate a shooting on a road. Sun. 11-3-46

The maximum penalty which Judge Currie may impose is ten years' imprisonment or $1,000 fine; or five years and $1,000 fine, or any part of the latter.

2nd Youth 'Guilty' In Miss. Manhunt

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

25-Min. Verdict Given; Three More to Be Tried

Sat. 11-16-46

RALEIGH, Miss.—A 25-minute verdict was returned last week when L. T. Hubbard was found guilty of firing a rifle with intent to kill, at Sheriff George C. Hawkins during a Sullivan Hollow manhunt last August.

Hubbard's case, the second of five assault cases growing out of a gun battle between white and colored men, was heard in Smith County Circuit Court.

Grew From Gun Battle

Hubbard, who was accused of assault with attempt to kill in the shooting of Sheriff George C. Hawkins of Smith County, said he did not shoot, but heard shooting and ran until he was wounded.

John Craft was convicted of a similar charge recently. The case grew out of a gun battle on Aug. 18 at the Craft home. Four white officers were shot.

Others held in the shooting are Garfield Craft and W. O. Craft, brothers of John Craft, and Harvey J. Sullivan, white farmer, who resides on the tract next to the Craft homestead.

Governor Wants More Evidence For Clemency

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Nov. 26—(AP)—Gov. Fielding Wright wants additional evidence before considering executive clemency for 20 names" requesting clemency for James Lewis, 14, and Charles Trudell, 15, lumberman.

The governor yesterday received a petition bearing "about 15 or

In Gun Battle

Journal & Courier
Lafayette, Ind.
Nov. 6 (AP)—

Trial of Harvey Jack Sullivan, liberation a white farmer residing on the tract t Court jury of land next to the Craft home- commutation of sentence for two commute the sentences on the teen-age Negroes convicted and basis of the Negroes' youth. sentenced to die for the murder of The governor said that he was Harry Mickey, Wilkinson County "not much on disturbing the ver- dict of the courts."

icted W. O. stead. was set for Monday. of five de- h assault in e Sullivan's last August and Negroes. against an-

Times New York, N.Y.
Nov. 7 46

A Mississippi jury has convicted L. T. Hubbard, one of the Negroes who were driven into swamp this Raleigh, Miss., Nov. After 5 minutes' deliber Smith County Circuit Cou Craft, Negro, third of fi fendants charged with as connection with the Hollow gun battle last between white men and N A similar charge again

Hubbard was accused of taking a shot at Sheriff George C. Hawkins during the manhunt, was convicted of assault with intention to kill by a Smith County Circuit

Convict Miss. Jury

Daily Worker

Mob Victim

Convicts 3d Negro

The Courier-Journal

Mississippi Jury

Court jury after only 25 minutes deliberation. Hubbard was himself wounded. Thurs. 11-7-46

At the same time that Hubbard was convicted, the finger of Southern justice was also moving in Columbia, S. C.

An all-white Federal Court jury acquitted Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull, of Batesburg, S. C., of violating the civil rights of Negro veteran Isaac Woodard. He gonged out Woodard's eyes with a blackjack. The jury was out only 15 minutes.

A Negro and a white veteran both had testified that Woodard was neither drunk nor disorderly before Shull arrested him.

Condemned Boys Find a Friend In Dying Woman

PM New York, N.Y. Tues. 12-31-46

At Oakland, Cal., Mrs. Blanche Meiers, 55, announced that she would leave Jackson, Miss., on New Year's Day to perform "one final important act before I die." Informed by doctors that she has only a few more months to live because of an incurable malady, Mrs. Meiers decided that her "final important act" would be a personal appeal to Gov. Fielding L. Wright of Mississippi for the lives of two 14-year-old boys, Charles Truesdale and James Adams, sentenced to hang for murder.

"I am the mother of eight children myself," said Mrs. Meiers, "and I cannot believe that ever, under any circumstances, boys hardly more than children should be given the extreme penalty when they are too young to be held to the full accountability of adults."

Meanwhile, at Jackson, attorneys pressed for clemency for the two Negro boys convicted of killing their employer, a sawmill operator. Gov. Wright, who recently granted a stay of execution until Jan. 17, said he would talk to the boys personally before reaching a final decision. 12-31-46

4 Mississippi Negroes Get 10-Year Terms

Daily Worker New York, N.Y. Thurs. 11-28-46

After an all white Smith County, Mississippi jury found four Negro defendants guilty of assault and battery with intent to kill during the Sullivan Hollow incident, they were given the maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

A lone white defendant, Harvey Sullivan held on the same charges was given a continuance. Bond in each case was set a $1,000 pending appeal.

The men found guilty were Johnny Craft, 22-year-old ex-Marine; W. O. Craft; Garfield Craft, and L. T. Hubbard.

The four sharecroppers were among 17 Negroes who were driven into a swamp this summer by a posse.

16e 1946

2 Negroes Executed For Murder of Woman

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky. Sat. 8-17-46

Jefferson City, Mo., Aug. 16 (AP)—Two Negroes were executed side by side early today in Missouri Penitentiary's lethal gas chamber for the robbery and murder of a white woman. The robbery netted them less than $5.

The two, Fred Ellis, 23, and Jesse Sanford, 37, had been convicted of beating Mrs. Mary Santo, 56-year-old widow, with "knucks" and bottles, then wrapping her in a rug and burning her in her Pacific, Mo., home in December, 1943. Sat. 8-17-46

Lucy' Lands In Jail After She—Pardon—He Weds Negro Corporal

NEW YORK, Jan. 7—(AP)—A Negro corporal was arrested today for marrying another Negro masquerading as a woman in order to obtain government dependency allotments.

The corporal, 34-year-old Reuben Anderson, was charged with defrauding the government of $1,000 by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

E. E. Conroy, agent in charge of the New York FBI office, said Anderson enlisted in the Army in 1942 and went through a marriage ceremony in June, 1944, with "Lucy Hicks" in Oxnard, Calif.

"Anderson knew that 'Lucy' was a man at the time of the so-called marriage," Conroy said, adding that Anderson had been a partner of "Lucy" in operation of a disorderly establishment.

Conroy said the two Negroes planned to use Army allotments of $50 monthly to establish a bar and grill after the war. A police raid on the Hicks house last October revealed the plan, Conroy said, and "Lucy" now is in a California jail, serving a term for perjury in connection with marriage application.

Anderson was scheduled to be arraigned before a U. S. Commissioner in Brooklyn.

KIDNAPPERS SENTENCED

New York Times

Two Who Seized Army Nurse Get Long Term in Prison

2-11-46

In sentencing two men yesterday to long terms in State prison for kidnapping Lieut. Dorothy Witt of the Army Nurse Corps, Judge Thomas Downs in the Queens County Court told the prisoners: "We don't want your kind in Queens County."

He then sentenced Pete Mitchell, 40 years old, of 117 West 141st Street, Manhattan, to serve from 30 years to life on the kidnapping count and 15 to 30 years on a robbery count, the sentences to run concurrently; and Oliver Taylor, 21, of 40 West 135th Street, Manhattan, to serve from 25 years to life in State Prison. They were found guilty by a jury in the Queens County Court on January 28.

2-11-46

Lieutenant Witt was walking to her home at 90-08 208th Street, Bellaire, at 3 A. M. on Nov. 8, when the two men and another, still unapprehended (all three men Negroes), pushed her into an automobile and took her to Mitchell's room. There, alone with Mitchell, she fought until his landlord intervened and she was permitted to leave.

Lucy's 'Mate' Guilty in GI Allotment Plot

MP Faces Up to 10 Years, $10,000 Fine For 'Marriage' Scheme

By Arnold Blom and James Parlatore

Reuben Anderson, the Mitchel Field MP corporal with the manmadam "wife," is guilty as charged.

The jury of middle-aged business and professional men in Brooklyn Federal Court deliberated only 35 minutes yesterday before convicting him of false statements in applying for a Government allotment to his "wife," Lucy Hicks Anderson, male operator of a house of prostitution in Oxnard, Cal.

The brawny, six-foot Anderson put his hands to his face to hold back the tears as he heard the verdict, under which he is liable to up to 10 years in prison or a fine of up to $10,000, or both.

Lucy's in Court

The 60-year-old Lucy—his baptismal name—was in court again, in women's clothes from head to toe. He wore a black hat with veil, tan suit, white silk blouse, a long fur neckpiece, brown gloves, and brown open-toed shoes. His black wig lay curled on his neck in long braids, leaving his ears exposed. There was brilliant red polish on his long, well-manicured fingernails, rouge on his high cheekbones, lipstick on his mouth. Lucy, who is reported to wear falsies, was sadly in need of a shave.

Anderson's attorney did not dispute that Lucy was a man, nor that in applying for the allotment Anderson identified Lucy as his "wife." However, on a crucial point, the defense argued that Anderson went through the marriage ceremony with Lucy in good faith, not knowing he was a man, and asserted Anderson never had a chance to find out the truth.

Anderson testified that the wedding took place in Oxnard about 6 p.m. June 14, 1944, and that about 8 or 8:30 p.m. the same day he left to visit his mother in Los Angeles. He hadn't seen Lucy since, Anderson declared, until the last few days.

Says He Never Knew

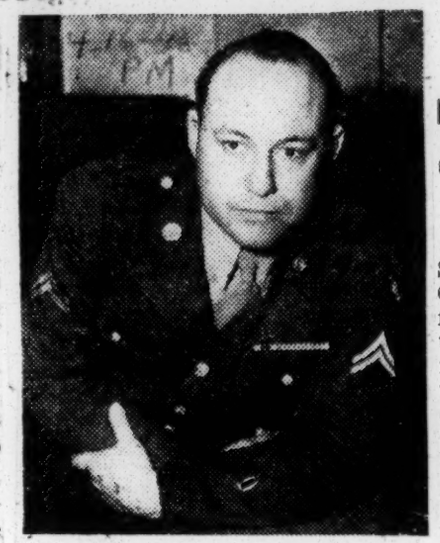
Asked by his attorney, "Did you know Lucy to be anything but a woman?" Anderson replied "no." He said he never knew Lucy was a man until his arrest in Oxnard last Christmas on charges of perjury: in the application for the marriage license Lucy swore he was a woman. Lucy is now serving a year in jail for perjury.

U. S. Assistant U. S. Attorney Herbert Sorin, cross-examining, made the 32-year-old Anderson admit that letters from Lucy were addressed to "my dearest Reuben" and were signed "all my love, Lucy."

Anderson denied virtually in its entirety a statement he made to FBI Agent William B. Hershey, Jr., after his arrest Jan. 4. He denied that he helped Lucy operate his house of prostitution; that he acted as procurer; that he knew Lucy was a man; that he knew Lucy was wealthy; that Lucy sent him $25 to $100 a week, and that at one time he had $1100 from Lucy deposited in a Hempstead bank.



Lucy Hicks Anderson
This is a man.



Cpl. Reuben Anderson
Claimed 'Good Faith'
Photos by John De Blase, PM

Anderson asserted he signed the statement without reading it, but Hershey testified that he not only read it, but made corrections which he initialled "R.A."

About 50 persons were in the courtroom, including a few soldiers, but only one woman. Several of Anderson's buddies, appearing as character witnesses, testified that his reputation was beyond reproach.

The Case of the Sarge, Allotment & a Madam

Lucy Shows Up In Brooklyn Court in Full Regalia

By Arnold Blom

Sgt. Reuben Anderson might not be on trial here now, charged with lying about his allotment checks, if there hadn't been an outbreak of venereal disease 3000 miles away in Oxnard, Cal.

That's only one of the fantastic features of a case which U. S. Attorney J. Vincent Keogh says is one of the oddest ever prosecuted by his office.

The trial began yesterday in Brooklyn Federal Court. Anderson is charged with giving false information to the personnel section of the War Dept. On its face it was a routine affair.

But Judge Robert A. Inch showed pretty fast that it was not when he ordered all the women out of court. Then an all-male jury was picked, and Assistant U. S. Attorney Herbert Sorin began presenting his case. From then on one bizarre development succeeded another.

Developments

Here's how the story took form:

Anderson enlisted in the Army in 1942 in his home town of Los Angeles. He and Lucy Hicks were married in Oxnard on June 14, 1944, and three days later Anderson signed a request for allotment checks for her. She received 19 of them, each of $50, for a total of $950.

Some months ago there was an outbreak of venereal disease cases in Ventura and an investigation showed that the source was a house of prostitution in Oxnard. All the inmates were examined. Among them was Lucy Hicks Anderson, who turned out to be the madam of the house.

Lucy Hicks Anderson also turned out to be a man. He was arraigned on charges of violating Selective Service regulations by failing to register for the draft, but was acquitted because he was over age, the marriage certificate showing he had been born in 1886.

FBI Appears

The draft-evasion case brought in the FBI, which learned about the allotment checks Lucy was getting as Anderson's "wife," and Anderson, who meanwhile had been transferred to Mitchel Field, was arrested.

Brought here to testify, Lucy appeared in court yesterday in feminine regalia—a black short-sleeved dress, brown cloth coat, black wig, and brown veil hat. Although identified to the provost marshal as a man, in jail and a fine of up to $10,000. He is 32, a little more. His parents, apparently disappointed on the contrary, seems and subsequently Lucy may be that at Mitchel Field on charges of defrauding the AIP—and a sergeant at Government.

Lucy's story begins in Kentucky, though his feet are large, his legs slad's office. He is 32, a little more His parents, apparently disappointed Anderson did ed that he was a boy, baptized him yesterday, but may take as a girl and brought him up as court records this one. So far as is known here, he faces up to 10 years never has worn masculine garb.

When Lucy drifted west is not

EX-POLICEMAN SENTENCED

New York Times

G. F. Brown Gets 20 Years to Life for Double Slaying

New York, N.Y.

Judge Saul S. Streit in General Sessions yesterday sentenced George F. Brown, 41 years old, a former detective who has six citations for bravery in Harlem arrests, to a State prison term of twenty years to life. Brown was convicted of second-degree murder by a jury last March 5 in the double shooting of a newly married couple in a Harlem street on the night of June 22, 1944.

The court stayed execution of the sentence until May 20 to enable Brown to confer with his lawyers on a contemplated appeal.

The victims of the shooting were Sergt. Clarence Brwn of the Army, no relation of the former policeman, and his bride of three days, Mrs. Mildred Scott Brown. The prosecution contended the motive for the double slaying was jealousy, although the defendant, whose home was at 106-18 Thirty-second Avenue, Corona, Queens, was married to a Wac. The jurors in Brown's first trial on the first-degree murder indictment were unable to agree on a verdict. Brown at one time was assigned as detective bodyguard for Joe Louis, the heavyweight champion.

known, but he is said to have operated the house of prostitution for 20 years. He is an excellent cook and housemaid and was in great demand among the prominent families of Oxnard. He even served as personal maid for some of the wealthiest women there. All the time, of course, he posed as a woman and was accepted as such. According to the testimony, Anderson had known Lucy since 1934 and knew that he was both man and madam.

It was reported unofficially that as a result of his unmasking, Lucy was tried and is now doing time on charges of perjury, masquerading as a woman, and operating a disorderly house.

4 More Guilty of White Slavery

Afro American Baltimore, Md.

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Four more persons were adjudged guilty in Federal Court here last week of conspiracy to violate the white slave statutes by transporting, harboring and importing Canadian girls across the border for immoral purposes.

Found guilty in 45 minutes by the jury was Eddie Kitts, 32, Niagara Falls, on a separate indictment charging that he harbored Marie Gagne, Alias Lillian Dione, 30, of Quebec, Canada who pleaded guilty last week.

Robinson and Norman were sentenced to two years each in Federal prison. Sat. 8-3-46

Louise Miller, 40, white, this city, and Kitts were convicted when they withdrew pleas of innocence and pleaded guilty. Roosevelt Boykin, 41, and Frank Franks, 40, both of Niagara Falls, pleaded guilty.

Judge Raps Police

Sentences were postponed "until some future date" by Judge John Knight upon request of the prosecutor, R. Norman Kirchgrabber, first assistant U. S. attorney.

Two other defendants, Robert Norman, 42, and Larry Robinson, 33, both of Niagara Falls, were convicted last week. A seventh defendant, Joshua Williamson, Niagara Falls, is still at large. Judge Knight denounced police officials who "permit such conditions in this day and age."

Judge Knight criticized the jury for not convicting one of the defendants, Thornton, evidence against whom, he thought, was ample.

2 Proved Guilty of White Slavery

Afro-American Baltimore Md.

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Although two white girls confessed to being prostitutes, a jury of ten men and two women convicted two colored men in a four-day white-slavery trial in Federal Court here.

The convicted men are Larry Robinson, 33, of 611 Erie Ave., Niagra Falls, and Robert Norman, 42, of 37 West Falls St. 8-30-46

Brought From Canada

Freed on charges of conspiring with them in transporting the girls from Canada were Lucy Palumbo, 27, white, and James Thornton, 38, of Niagra Falls. Thornton conducts the cafe at 611 Erie St., said to be the front for the slave trade.

Norman and Robinson were accused of illegally bringing Mrs. Elizabeth Leach, 21, of St. Catherines, Ontario, and Miss Lucy Kuzick, 21, of Toronto, from Canada into the United States and of failing to register them as aliens.

Maximum sentence may run up to 15 years' imprisonment. The Government charged that Robinson was an agent for the alleged white-slave ring. 8-30-46

Barred Previously

Hubert A. Hunt, night inspector in charge of Canadian immigration at Niagra Falls, Ontario, testified that Robinson had been refused permission to enter Canada in 1942, 1943 and 1945.

In 1942, records showed that Robinson had 27 cents in his pocket and did not know whom he was going to visit in Canada. In 1943, he was bringing a girl to the United States on the pretext that he was going to marry her. In 1945 he said he was married and had a wife and two children.

"Are you going out of your way to keep colored people out of Canada?" the attorney asked Hunt.

Discrimination Denied

"Absolutely no. There is no discrimination. We enforce the law impartially. Out of 500 undesirables on my list, 80% are white. On Emancipation Day, we often admit 4,000 colored people to Canada for a picnic."

Marie L. Gagne, 30, of Quebec, wearing a bright red dress, insisted that she had made four or five all-night visits to Thornton's with men. In addition, she said that she was in love with Eddie Kitts, one of the defendants in the white slave case but not now on trial, and that she had pursued him and waited for him. 3-30-46

3 THUGS IN HARLEM GET LONG TERMS

New York

Court Condemns Assailants of Bride and Husband as Depraved Terrorists

In sentencing three young Harlem thugs in General Sessions yesterday to long State prison terms, Judge George L. Donnellan declared that the evidence in the case was the worst he had heard in his nineteen years on the bench and demanded that Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander "organize a strong-arm squad of police to beat up criminals like these in that district."

Judge Donnellan imposed a term of seventeen to twenty-five years on Henry Sanders, 21 years old, of 170 West 123d Street, and terms of fifteen to twenty-one years each on David Williams, 20, and William Reid, 22, both of 1051 Boston Road, the Bronx.

They had been convicted on counts of rape, sodomy, grand larceny and felonious assault on a newly married Negro couple whom they held prisoners for nine hours in a West 127th Street tenement apartment on the night of Dec. 14 last. The police are seeking eight other young thugs as participants in the crimes.

"You are a disgrace to your race," Judge Donnellan told the three convicted men. "You indulged in all forms of depravity on that unfortunate couple." He added, "Sanders, the alibi you tried to establish on the witness stand in your defense was a lie." Sanders had sworn he never saw the complainants before his arrest.

When counsel for the trio, Joseph Ellison of the Legal Aid Society, informed Judge Donnellan, "My clients have decided to throw themselves on the mercy of the court," Judge Donnellan retorted, "I believe these defendants were members of a gang of criminals who had terrorized the people of Harlem and that Sanders was the most vicious of the lot."

The court further commented on testimony that Sanders robbed the young husband of $21 and took a watch from the wrist of his bride before he and the others drove them to the upstairs apartment.

Assistant District Attorney Bernard L. Alderman had brought out in the testimony that the victims were walking up Seventh Avenue at 127th Street at 11 o'clock at night on their way to their home, when Sanders confronted them with a pistol, as Williams and Reid closed in on them from behind, and forced them to walk to the West 127th Street tenement.

GI Who Wed Man Found Guilty

Afro-American Baltimore Md.

By MICHAEL CARTER

BROOKLYN N.Y. — A jury of middle-aged business and professional men found Cpl. Reuben Anderson, Mitchell Field MP, "guilty as charged" in Federal Court here Monday after deliberating only 53 minutes.

He was convicted of false statements in applying for a Government allotment to his "wife," Lucy Hicks Anderson, male operator of a house of prostitution in Oxnard, Calif.

Specifically, the prosecution contended that Corporal Anderson had sent his male wife $950 in allotment checks fully aware that his "wife" was a man.

Denies Confession

Anderson, six feet tall and brawny, endeavored to hold back the tears with his hands as he heard the verdict which makes him liable to up to 10 years in prison, or a fine of up to $10,000, or both.

He denied virtually in its entirety a purported statement of confession made to FBI Agent William B. Hersey, Jr., after his arrest last Jan. 4.

'Lucy' Sentenced to Year in Jail

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

LOS ANGELES—"Lucy" Hicks, a 60-year-old man who masqueraded as a woman for 40 years, married" his pal and rooked the government out of $900 in Army allotment checks, was sentenced to one year in jail and fined $500 by Federal judge Leon R. Yankwich last week.

"Lucy" assertedly married Rubin Anderson, a soldier, in June of 1944, and received his allotment checks. Sat. 8-3-46

"She" was picked up in a raid on an Oxnard, Calif., rooming house and after a physical examination was declared to be a man.

GI's "Wife" Enters Court



Mrs. Lucy Hicks Anderson, right, who for years fooled people in California into thinking he was a woman, enters a Brooklyn court with a bailiff to testify in the case of "her" husband, Cpl. Reuben Anderson, who was convicted of defrauding the government by sending his male wife $950 in allotments. He faces a ten-year jail term. Because "she" is a party to the conspiracy, charges may be preferred against "her." PM Photo



"LUCY" HICKS.

16e 1946

New York

Negro Is Convicted Of Robbery Slaying

The Times
Birmingham, Ala.

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 14—(AP)—An all-male jury Friday night convicted Ward Beecher Caraway of first degree murder in the robbery slaying of 52-year-old Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, Long Island socialite, in her Flower Hill home last July 24.

Sat. 12-14-46

The jury deliberated three hours before returning the verdict in Nassau County court.

Under the verdict, the death sentence is mandatory. Formal sentence will be handed down Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Caraway, 22-year-old Negro native of Charlotte, N. C., who was employed as a chauffeur-butler on an estate neighboring the Logan home at the time of the slaying, heard the verdict calmly, but his wife, Marie, an expectant mother, screamed and collapsed and had to be carried from the courtroom.

The state charged that Caraway fired the fatal bullets at the society matron after demanding money. Police said he then went upstairs and attacked and shot Mrs. Logan's 26-year-old daughter, Marjory Jeanne Logan, a former Wac.

Caraway testified in his own defense that he was under the influence of barbiturates the morning of the shootings and could not remember the events at the Logan home. A statement purportedly signed by him after his arrest Aug. 1, was read to the jury. The defense put Caraway on the stand to testify that a detective threatened to kill him with a knife while he was being questioned.

Caraway Sentenced to Die; Attorney Says He'll Appeal

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.
Thurs. 12-19-46

MINEOLA, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Ward Beecher Caraway was sentenced today to die in the Sing Sing electric chair, during the first week of January, 1947, for the murder of Mrs. Marjorie Church Logan. James D. C. Murray, court-appointed counsel, told the Daily Worker he would appeal.

When Judge Henry J. A. Collins asked him the usual question as to whether there was "any reason why sentence should not be pronounced," Caraway refused to answer. James D. C. Murray, his court-appointed counsel, rose and told the judge that Caraway "understood that death was mandatory . . . isn't that right when the jury returned the guilty verdict and was taken from the court by attendants.

Murray, who moved to set aside the verdict because of "insufficient evidence," has 30 days in which to file an appeal. The appeal would automatically stay the execution.

Ward?," he inquired of Caraway.

"That is correct," said Caraway without blinking an eye.

Present in court this morning was Mrs. Marie Caraway, his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Barnes of Charlotte, N. C., his step-father and mother. Mrs. Caraway collapsed

Caraway Begs Forgiveness; Ready to Die

PM New York, N.Y.
Thurs. 12-19-46

Sentenced early yesterday to die in Sing Sing's electric chair the week of Jan. 27 for the murder of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, Ward Beecher Caraway has begged forgiveness from the dead woman's husband and daughter.

The Rev. August W. Brustat, Lutheran pastor who ministered to the 22 year old butler while he awaited trial, released the texts of the letters Caraway sent to William J. Logan and Marjory Jeanne Logan, who Caraway shot and raped.

The letter to Miss Logan said in part:

"Only in God's name do I have the right or the courage to address you and plead for forgiveness for the foul acts I committed against you.

"The full meaning of my sin has been fully brought home to me through the spiritual ministrations received by me. . . . I am now willing to pay the penalty. May God enable you to forgive me."

The letter to Logan:

"Although I can well understand your first impulse upon receiving a letter from me will be to bitterly resent or ignore it, I beg of you to bear with me and read on.

"I have felt impelled for some time to write to you but deferred it lest it be considered a plea for mercy. . . .

"Perhaps I can sum it all up in one word—forgiveness. This letter comes to you with that prime request—if you can possibly find it in your heart to do so—begging you to forgive me my dastardly crimes against you and your wife and your daughter. I now fully realize that by the blackness of my acts I have outraged God, you and society, and so am ready and willing to pay the full penalty for my sin . . ."

CARAWAY LETTERS ASK FORGIVENESS

The Times

Pleas to Daughter, Husband of Murder Victim Are Made Public After Death Sentence

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MINEOLA, L. I., Dec. 18—Ward Beecher Caraway has written to the daughter and the husband of the woman he murdered begging their forgiveness, it was made known here today after he had been sentenced to die in the electric chair the week of Jan. 27.

Under Sunday's date, the 22-year-old former butler-chauffeur, who was convicted by a jury Friday for the murder of Mrs. William John Logan, wrote that he now realized "the blackness of my acts" and that he was ready to pay the full penalty. He said he had wanted to write the Logans for "some time" but had put it off until the trial lest the messages be considered a plea for mercy.

Caraway, a high school graduate, said the letters were voluntary. They were made public by the Rev. A. W. Brustat, pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Mineola, who has visited Caraway regularly at the Nassau County jail. Thurs. 12-19-46

Calls His Acts "Dastardly"

In his letters Caraway characterized his crimes against the Logans as "dastardly," and outrages against "God, you and society." He wrote, too, of atoning for his sins by "owning up to them," but there was no new admission of guilt.

Caraway's defense was based on temporary derangement due to taking barbiturate drugs on the morning of the crimes. In his statements to the District Attorney and in his testimony on the stand, he professed inability to recall most details.

To Marjory Logan, 26, whom he is accused of assaulting, robbing and shooting twice in the head, Caraway wrote:

Dear Miss Logan:

Only in God's name do I have a right or the courage to address you and to plead for forgiveness for the foul acts I committed against you.

The full meaning of my sins has been fully brought home to me through the spiritual ministrations received by me, and it is now uppermost in my heart to at least, in a measure, atone by owning up to them and begging forgiveness. I wrote this voluntarily to you to prove my penitence. I am now willing to pay the penalty.

May God enable you to forgive me.

WARD BEECHER CARAWAY.

His Letter to Victim's Husband

The letter to Mr. Logan follows

Dear Mr. Logan:

Although I can well understand your first impulse upon receiving a letter from me will be to bitterly resent or ignore it—I beg you to bear with me and read on.

I have felt impelled for some time to write to you but deferred it lest it be considered a plea for mercy, sympathy or leniency during the trial. I did not want this.

Perhaps I can sum it all up in one word—forgiveness. This letter comes to you with that prime request—if you can possibly find it in your heart to do so—begging you to forgice me my dastardly crimes against you and your wife and your daughter. I now fully realize that by the blackness of my act I have outraged God, you and society and so am ready and willing to pay the full penalty for my sons. 12-19-46

There was a time when a might have been too proud or too obstinate to write this way to you but through the spiritual ministrations that have been brought to me I have come to realize the truth of the Gospel of Christ and now of my own volition I write this way to you, since I know it is what God expects of me to prove my penitence.

My one great comfort now is trusting in His mercy that He will forgive me through His Son—and because I fully believe God will forgive, I have the courage also to approach you and plead your forgiveness.

May God help you to do this.

Penitently,

WARD BEECHER CARAWAY.

Pastor Forwards Letter

The letters were enclosed with a forwarding one from Mr. Brustat. In his accompanying message the clergyman said Caraway wanted to write to Miss Logan several days before the opening of the trial, but that at his suggestion that it seemed like a bid for clemency Caraway put off writing. The pastor also wrote:

"It was at the same time too that he stated: 'I want to die. I have no right to live since I took a life.'"

Sentence was imposed on Caraway in County Court by Judge Henry J. A. Collins in the presence of the prisoner's wife, mother and step-father. Caraway took the sentence with the same outward calm he had shown during his trial. After being sentenced he was taken to the death house at Sing Sing.

Caraway at Sing Sing

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

OSSINING, N. Y., Dec. 18—Upon arriving at Sing Sing death-house early this afternoon, to await execution on Jan. 30 in the electric chair, Ward Beecher Caraway was asked, for the record, to what he attributed his criminal act. "Use of drugs," he tersely replied. He said he was 22 years old and lived at 9 Green Briar Lane, Port Washington, reached high school in his studies, used tobacco and drugs as habits. He had no money or jewelry. He spoke only when questioned by John McCue, chief clerk, for the pedigree cards, or by other attendants.

Ex-GI Guilty in Murder Case

The Afro-American

Wife, Expectant Mother, Collapses

Baltimore, Md.

DRUG BIG ISSUE

Sat. 12-21-46

Physicians Disagree on Its Aid to Crime

MINNEOLA, N.Y.—(NNPA)—Ward Beecher Caraway, 22-year-old chauffeur-butler from Charlotte (N.C.), last Friday was found guilty of first degree murder in the fatal shooting last July 24 of Mrs. Marjory C. Logan during a robbery in her home.

The verdict carries a mandatory death sentence. Caraway was calm as he heard the verdict read, but his wife, Mrs. Marie Caraway, 22, an expectant mother, who fainted during the defense summary, screamed several times, then collapsed. She was carried from the courtroom by attendants.

Judge Henry J. A. Collins fixed Wednesday as a tentative date to pronounce sentence.

State's Testimony

The testimony revealed that Caraway, a dishonorably discharged soldier, at 10:45 a.m., July 24, walked into the living room of the Logan home in the fashionable North Shore section of Flower Hill on Long Island.

He took $10 from the 52-year-old Mrs. Logan at the point of a .32-caliber revolver and fired a fatal shot into her forehead. He then bounded up a stairway and proceeded to rob, criminally assault and twice shoot the slain woman's 27-year-old daughter. 16

The robbing and shooting of the daughter, Miss Marjory Jeanne Logan, a former WAC sergeant, was allowed in evidence, even though the defendant was not indicted for those acts. The criminal assault version was barred by Judge Collins. The AfroAmerican

The defense testimony said that at 9 a.m. of July 24, Caraway, employed as a chauffeur-domestic by a neighbor of the Logans, swallowed three barbiturate capsules, part of the drugs he had stolen from a Charlotte (N.C.) hospital earlier this year. He allegedly used the drugs regularly.

Caraway contends the only thing he remembered about his actions that morning was going to the Logan home, where he had never been before, and where he never knew anybody, and hearing one shot fired. Baltimore, Md.

The State maintained that the act was premeditated, and was a felony murder, committed during the course of a robbery.

Doctors Disagree

The prosecution produced doctors who testified that it would have been impossible for Caraway to commit his consecutive acts under the influence of three barbiturate capsules, which are used as sedatives normally.

Defense doctors held, however, that it was possible for Caraway to have had an idiosyncrasy for the drugs and to have committed those crimes without remembering them. Sat. 12-21-46

Judge Collins told the jurors they could return with one of seven verdicts, ranging from murder in the first degree to not guilty.

Caraway, who was arrested last July 31, had a previous trial in October, which was called off when his counsel, Charles R. Weeks, became ill. Five days had been devoted to selection of a jury at that time.

Court of Appeals Must Review Caraway's Fate

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Condemned L. I. Murderer Asks Victim's Husband and Daughters for Forgiveness

Sat. 12-28-46

MINEOLA, L.I.—Ward Beecher Caraway, 22, dishonorably discharged soldier, found guilty of first degree murder on Dec. 13 for the robbery-slaying of Mrs. Marjory Church Logan, was sentenced Dec. 18 by Judge Henry J. A. Collins to die in the electric chair the week of Jan. 27, 1947.

The mandatory death sentence will not be carried out, however, until the Court of Appeals reviews the verdict — compulsory under the law in first degree murder cases.

Caraway, as he did all through his 15-day trial, was emotionless when sentence was pronounced, but his wife, Mrs. Marie Caraway, an expectant mother, and the defendant's mother, Mrs. Ila Mae Barnes, wept.

Blamed Drugs

His only defense was that he was under the influence of drugs when he committed the crimes.

Eight ministers walked up to Judge Collins, as Caraway was taken into an automobile for the trip to Sing Sing prison, and thanked him for giving the defendant, a Charlotte (N.C.) high school graduate, a fair trial.

Asks for Forgiveness

Shortly after he was sentenced, two letters written by Caraway on Dec. 15, in which he asked forgiveness, were made public by the Rev. Dr. A. W. Brustat, pastor of the Luthern Church of Our Saviour here, who baptized and ministered to him while awaiting trial.

One was to Miss Marjory Jeanne Logan, 27, daughter of the slain woman, and a former Wac sergeant, who was robbed, criminally assaulted, and shot twice by Caraway after he robbed and fatally shot her mother.

The other letter was to Miss Logan's father, William John Logan, husband of the slain woman.

Dr. Brustat also addressed a letter to them at their home, 16 Bonnie Heights Rd., Flower Hill, where the crimes occurred last July 24, saying Caraway told him: "I want to die. I have no right to live since I took a life."

Ministrations Helpful

Caraway's letters were written in pencil. He told Miss Logan:

"Only in God's name do I have the right or the courage to address you to plead for forgiveness for the foul acts I committed against you."

He said the full meaning of "my sins" has been fully brought home to him through "the spiritual ministrations" he received, and that the letter was written "voluntarily" to own up to them, prove his penitence and beg forgiveness.

Plea to Father

He told Mr. Logan: "Although I can well understand your first impulse upon receiving a letter from me will be bitterly reesnt or ignore it — I beg of you to bear with me and read on.

"I have felt impelled for some time to write to you but deferred it lest it be considered a plea for mercy, sympathy or leniency during the trial. I did not want this.

"Perhaps I can sum it all up in one word — forgiveness—begging you to forgive me my dastardly crimes against you and your wife and your daughter.

"I now fully realize that by the blackness of my acts I have outraged God, you and society, and so am ready and willing to pay the full penalty for my sins. . ."

16e 1946

New York (Trainmen)

CONVICTED DINING CAR WAITERS ARE SENTENCED

Memphis World

Memphis, Tenn

NEW YORK.—(NNPA) — Federal Judge John C. Knox imposed sentences ranging from two years of probation to four months of imprisonment last Friday upon 11 dining car waiters, formerly employed by the New York Central Railroad, who had pleaded guilty to participation in a dining car racket that defrauded the railroad of between $75,000 and $100,000 in 1945.

Fri. 1-3-46

The defendants were among fifty-six stewards, chefs and waiters indicted last September on charges of conspiracy to steal from dining cars in interstate commerce.

Many of the victims of the racket, Assistant United States Attorney John C. Hilly said, were service men who received short rations through the manipulation of food checks for which the Government paid full price. Low-priced salads were served to service men, Mr. Hilly said, while the defendants sold steaks and roasts to experienced travelers.

Asked by Judge Knox whether they had anything to say, one of the defendants, Troy I. Burton of Buffalo, N. Y., said that he did not "feel like a criminal" and that the practice of manipulating checks had been going on from the time he became a dining car waiter in 1931.

Fri. 1-5-46

Eleven Dining Car Waiters Are Sentenced

The Informer

Houston Texas

Sat. 1-6-46

NEW YORK — (NNPA) —Federal Judge John C Knox imposed sentences ranging from two years of probation to four months of imprisonment last Friday upon eleven dining car waiters formerly employed by the New York Central Railroad, who had pleaded guilty to participation in a dining-car racket that defrauded the railroad between $75,000 and $100,000 in 1945.

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16e 1946

Raleigh, N. C. News & Observer

North Carolina

10 MORE YEARS ADDED TO NEGRO'S SENTENCE

Hosea Parker Gets Term in Bertie, Now Faces 46 Years in Prison

Windsor, Aug. 31.—Hosea Parker, alias "Nine Ball Slim," Snow Hill Negro, was given a ten-year sentence here this week on six charges of breaking and entering and larceny. The Bertie County sentence brings the total time Parker has to serve in State Prison to 46 years.

Parker has already received sentences totalling 36 years on larceny charges in Greene, Duplin and Lenoir Counties, and was brought here from Central Prison to face charges in Superior Court for robberies committed in Roxobel, Kelford and Powellsville.

Judge W. C. Harris of Raleigh presiding over the August term of court, ordered Parker's sentence to begin at the expiration of his other time. Judgment was pronounced only a few minutes after the defendant was arraigned.

Long Terms Meted Four For Part In Carolina Death

World
Memphis, Tenn.
Fri. 10-18-46

CONCORD, N. C.—(S N S)—Following pleas of guilty here Tuesday, four white men faced long prison terms Wednesday in connection with the death of an aged Negro man, August 13.

Two of the men, Bill Cook and Edward Furr, were given sentences of life imprisonment after pleading guilty of being accessories before the fact and were sentenced to eight to 12 years imprisonment.

The white men had been charged with locking up Isaac Glover, 65, and setting fire to his home the night of August 13. Glover was rescued from the blazing house by neighbors, but he died shortly afterwards in a hospital. Robbery was established as the motive.

LAWYER IN FINAL PLEA TO SAVE LIFE OF GIRL

The Times New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11—A final plea to stay the execution next Monday of Corrine Sykes, 22-year-old housemaid who killed her employer, Mrs. F. S. Wodlinger, with a knife on Dec. 7, 1944, has been made by her attorney, Raymond Pace Alexander.

The attorney sent letters to Gov. Edward Martin and John C. Bell, Lieutenant Governor and chairman of the State Board of Pardons, in which he wrote that he was making more than a plea for a respite. "It is a plea for understanding and tolerance," he asserted.

Earlier this week the Board of Pardons refused for a second time to consider an application for clemency. Sat. 10-12-46

"I make this plea," Mr. Alexander wrote, "because as a member of the society into which this mental child was thrown and one of those warned by an earlier conduct, but to no avail, I feel a certain sense of personal responsibility in exacting upon her the most serious penalty known to our law, when society did nothing to prevent it."

He said that in 1936 the girl's school principal, Dr. Daniel Brooke, testified in court that she was unable to read the simplest words and that she showed abnormal reactions in her conduct with other children and teachers.

According to Mr. Alexander, Dr. Brooke testified that Miss Sykes should have been placed in an institution. "Corrine was never placed in an institution," the attorney observed. "Instead," he said, "she was thrust into a 'complex society of which she was unable to adjust herself.'"

Final Rites Held for Corrine Sykes

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

PHILADELPHIA

Final rites for Corrine Sykes, who recently was hanged here for the slaying of her employer, Mrs. Freda Woodlinger, were conducted Oct. 17 at the Howard B. White establishment by the Rev. William L. Bently. Interment was at Mount Lawn Cemetery.

While a curious crowd of some 400 persons stood untiring outside, the 25-minute service was witnessed by only about 40 close friends of the family in the quiet, darkened funeral parlor.

Mother Not Present

The only immediate relative present was Mrs. Helen Allen, a sister. Her mother, Mrs. Alemo Sykes, did not attend the viewing or the service because she wanted "to remember Corrine as I saw her alive." Baltimore, Md.

Surviving are: Mrs. Alemo Sykes, mother; Mrs. Helen Allen and Mrs. Florence Matthews, sisters; Jean Allen, niece; and James and Edward Williams, uncles. Sat. 10-26-46

Condemned Pa. Maid Wins 4th Reprieve

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (NNPA) — Miss Corrine Sykes, 22-year-old Philadelphia housemaid scheduled to die in the electric chair last week for the murder of Mrs. Freda Wodlinger, white, won her fourth prieve on Sept. 27, when Gov. Edward Martin stayed electrocution to the week of Oct. 14.

The postponemen was granted, he said, "for the purpose of further study by the State Board of Pardons of the report of psychiatrists and for the purpose of considering alleged after-discovered evidence." Sat. 10-5-46

She was scheduled originally to die on April 29 after the State Supreme Court on Jan. 7 upheld the decision of the trial court. Two appeals to the U.s. Supreme Court and the Board of Pardons by her attorney, Raymond Pace Alexander, were futile.

Supreme Court denies review to murderess

Los Angeles, Calif. Tribune

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Supreme Court refused last week to review the death sentence of Corrine Sykes, alias Heloise T. Parker, 20-year-old maid, who allegedly stabbed her white Philadelphia employer to death.

RESPITE GRANTED TO CORRINE SYKES

Sat. Sunflower 6-7-46

HARRISBURG, PA. — (ANP) — Gov Martin Tuesday gave Corrine Sykes, 20-year-old Philadelphia domestic convicted of the murder of her employer, another month's respite from the electric chair.

Execution of the maid, who stabbed to death her white employer during a robbery, had been set for the week beginning May 27.

Miss Corrine Sykes Dies in Pa. Chair

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

PHILADELPHIA

Corrine Sykes, 22-year-old housemaid, who was found to be subnormal back in grade school but denied institutional care because she was colored, paid with her life Monday morning for the murder of her employer 20 months ago. Sat. 10-19-46

She went to her death in the electric chair at Rockview Prison, near Bellfonte, quietly, without any outward show of emotion.

Stoical Calmness

It was the same type of calm indifference that caused her counsel from the Voluntary Defender's office to observe after she was tried for larceny in 1942:

"This defendant was very indifferent in court. The whole proceedings made little impression on here . . . The court intimated that the defendant was not all right and that Mr. Baldi (superintendent of county prison and a physician) should examine her."

Died in Four Minutes

With the prison chaplain, the Rev. C. F. Lauer, on one side, and a prison matron on the other, Corrine, wearing a gray dress, walked the short distance from her cell to the electrocution chamber at 12:27 a.m.

At 12:31 she was strapped in the chair; and at 12:35, the second woman ever to be executed in Pennsylvania was pronounced dead by Dr. B. E. Carrier, prison physician. Baltimore, Md.

Left Mother Letter

She sat quietly in the chair watching final preparations and listening to the Rev. Mr. Lauer. J. W. Claudy, prison superintendent, said she retained "remarkable composure" to the last, and made no final statement.

She left a letter addressed to her mother, whom she last saw on Friday when they prayed together in her cell here.

Although her attorney, Raymond P. Alexander, who brought the case to the Supreme Court, sent a wire to Governor Martin during the day urging a last-minute stay, the girl's fate was sealed Saturday, when it was revealed the State Board of Pardons had made a final disposition of the case.

Requested Chaplain's Aid

Corrine, accompanied by a matron, a prison guard and two State policemen, left Moyamensing County Prison here at 8:12 a.m., Sunday, and was driven to Rockview in a sedan.

Delayed by a blowout, the automobile arrived at Rockview at 2:40 p.m. Miss Sykes was placed in a special cell and visited by the prison chaplain whom she requested.

Later, she was examined by the prison physician and a small area on the back of her head was shaved clean to expose her scalp to the electrical discharge. The customary practice is to shave the whole head.

Ate All of Last Meal

At 6:30 p.m., she had her last meal sent to her cell. Prepared at the superintendent's residence, it consisted of roast chicken, lima beans, candied sweet potatoes, rolls and butter, vanilla ice cream and coffee. Afro-American

Prison officials said she ate all of it. Sat. 10-19-46

Four reprieves were granted the girl since she was convicted and sentenced March 17, 1945, for the butcher knife slaying of Mrs. Freda Wodlinger in December, 1944.

Takes Loot to Friend

After the woman was killed, Corrine then fled from the house at 6305 N. Camac St. with jewelry valued at $2,000. Her boyfriend, Jaycee Kelly, was later sentenced to five years in prison for receiving stolen goods in connection with the murder.

Mr. Alexander took the case to the State Supreme Court, contending that his client had a mental age of 8. When the higher court turned down the appeal, the attorney then carried it to the U.S. Supreme Court which also denied the appeal. A last plea to the State Board of Pardons also failed.

Institutions Blamed

In a last stirring plea to the Governor, Thursday, Mr. Alexander blamed the neglect of society for the girl's act.

He pointed out that her public school principal, Dr. Daniel A. Brooks, had testified in 1938 that Corrine was subnormal mentally, had spent four terms in one grade, and that efforts had been made to have the girl placed in an institution.

Never Given Examination

"Corrine was never placed in an institution," Mr. Alexander said. "She was colored. There was no place for her."

The lawyer also pointed out that during the larceny trial in 1942, Judge Joseph Kun had suggested a mental examination for the girl. This, he said, was never given.

No heed was paid the warning of Dr. Brooks and Judge Kun the lawyer asserted, adding, "She was allowed to roam at large and in 1944 she committed this horrible crime.

Neglected Obligation

"It is, therefore, not the feebleminded, maladjusted Corrine Sykes who is responsible for the crime, but it is I, it is you, it is all of us, it is the public, who refused to take upon ourselves the obligation which is ours to forestall such a tragedy in its incipiency," Mr. Alexander maintained.

The last woman to die in the electric chair was Irene Schroeder, convicted for the killing of a State Highway patrolman. She was electrocuted in 1931.

16e 1946 Philippine Islands

By Albert Deutsch

Death Penalty Against Negro GI Assailed by Prosecutor in Case

PM New York, N.Y. Thurs. 10-31-46

The case against Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., Negro GI condemned to death by a Manila Army court-martial for the fatal shooting of his friend and tent-mate, Pvt. Robert Patterson, crumbled some more in the last few days. Robert C. Guenzel, Nebraska University law student who, as an Army lieutenant, acted as Trial Judge Advocate (prosecutor) in the Woods case, has carried out his pledge to this reporter to write President Truman in behalf of the doomed youth. The Army Reviewing Board in Washington is now considering the appeal for a new trial made by the Detroit labor lawyer, Ernest Goodman.



Albert Deutsch

"I feel that I would be negligent in my duty," Guenzel declares in his letter to President Truman, "if I did not say, after due consideration and in the light of information available to me since the trial, that I am not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of Lemas Woods." (Reached by phone in Lincoln, Neb., Guenzel added that "this means, in effect, that if I were on a jury trying the man, I would have to declare him innocent.")

The case against Woods, Guenzel points out in his letter, rested on just two items of evidence:

¶ "The testimony of *one witness* who, at the time of the shooting was two tents away (approximately fifty feet) from the scene of the crime, conversing with the men in his tent." (Guenzel here refers to the testimony of Pvt. John Hicks, most of which was subsequently repudiated by the witness in a sworn affidavit.)

¶ "A confession which, the accused alleged, was given under duress. The latter allegation is admittedly customary on the part of accused parties, but it is reinforced here by the claim of duress being made to the first impartial officer the accused saw and also by the fact that *no evidence could be obtained to prove the events stated in the confession.*"

(Woods testified that the "confession" had been "beaten out of him" by agents of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division. In the "confession," he said he had deliberately planned the shooting of Patterson; in all other statements, verbal and written, he insisted it happened accidentally, as a result of his gun going off as he was cleaning it. The whole story in the confession, Woods charged, had been made up by the CID officers who extorted it from him.)

Guenzel urges that a further investigation be made, "primarily directed at securing the testimony of the eyewitnesses who had been redeployed to the United States prior to the trial."

(No effort was made by either prosecution or defense in the case to obtain at least affidavits from these known eyewitnesses.)

"Certainly," the ex-prosecutor adds, "the testimony of all witnesses should be obtained in a case of such a serious nature rather than a complete reliance on the aforementioned matters of evidence."

It is reliably reported that Guenzel will be called to Washington by the War Department to present his views and added evidence on the case he prosecuted.

The International Executive Board of the United Auto Workers, CIO, has adopted a resolution demanding a reversal of the death verdict against Lemas Woods, who was a UAW member in Detroit before he joined the Army. George F. Addes, in a letter to President Truman for the union's executive board, charges that the case represents "a tragic miscarriage of justice which may lead an innocent soldier to the gallows."

"The record of the trial," Addes writes, "shows that little effort was made by the court martial to get at the truth; that witnesses who were available and should have been called were not called; that the only witness against Woods has repudiated his testimony; and that testimony which could have proved Woods' innocence was suppressed."

War Department sources in Washington assure me that the whole case will be thoroughly investigated by the Judge Advocate General's office.

The investigation should go beyond the question of the guilt or innocence of this particular GI; it should dig at the suspicious factors which made possible the hanging penalty against the Negro youth. It should strive to erect stronger balwarks for protecting the innocent in future Army trials.

Pvt. Woods

The War Dept. announced yesterday that President Truman had granted a new court-martial trial to Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., Negro GI from Detroit, Mich. Woods was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death for killing a tent-mate in the Philippines after a 3½-hour court-martial there. The Army said new evidence in the case would be brought before the new trial.

Efforts yesterday to learn when the new trial would begin and what the new evidence was were unavailing.

Woods, in letters to his father in Detroit, swore he was innocent and pleaded for help. Woods, Sr., a member of the United Auto Workers, CIO, sought out Ernest Goodman, Detroit, a young labor attorney, who, after studying records in this country and securing a report from the Philippines, became convinced that Woods was innocent.

Goodman argued for a new trial for Woods before the War Dept.'s Board of Review in Washington in September. His prize exhibit was a copy of a memorandum by Lt. Robert C. Guenzel, prosecutor (trial judge advocate) in the Woods case, which pointed out serious weaknesses in the case against Woods.

By Albert Deutsch

Reveal Vital Evidence Suppressed In Army Trial of Doomed Negro GI

PM New York, N.Y. Thurs. 10-24-46

A sensational development in the case of Lemas Woods, Jr., the Negro GI sentenced to hang for the shooting of a tent-mate in the Philippines, underlines the crying need for a complete clean-up of the Army's outrageous court-martial system. *Vital evidence, which the responsible officers failed to introduce at the quickie Army trial which found Woods guilty of murder,* has been uncovered by Ernest Goodman, Detroit lawyer, who has been appealing the court-martial decision in behalf of the Civil Rights Congress. This one piece of evidence undermines the entire case built up by the court-martial prosecution against the man sentenced to the gallows.



Albert Deutsch

At the very moment this evidence is revealed, word comes from Washington that the Army Reviewing Board has approved the death sentence of Pvt. Woods. The final decision now rests in the hands of President Truman.

Pvt. Woods was condemned to hang last May, after a three-and-one-half-hour court-martial in Manila, on charges of deliberately shooting to death his friend, Pvt. Robert Patterson, as the latter lay asleep in his cot. Woods insisted that his gun went off accidentally as he was cleaning it. The prosecution claimed that Woods had gone over to Patterson's cot in the tent they shared, woke him up, turned him over, and shot him at close range. Woods declared that he was standing away from the cot when the gun went off.

Crucial to the whole case was a bar of mosquito netting that was hung over Patterson's cot at the time. If the shooting were done while Woods stood over him at close range, as the prosecution held, then the mosquito netting probably would have been raised by Woods and would show no bullet hole. If Woods's story that he was standing some distance away from the cot were true, then the mosquito net covering the cot would be shot through. For some strange and undisclosed reason, the net was never introduced as evidence at the trial. Goodman, when he took the Woods appeal, noted the vital importance of this point and asked members of the Philippine Islands Lawyers Guild to investigate.

These Filipino lawyers have just turned up an amazing report by Thomas M. Baty, chief of the Army's Criminal Investigation Division laboratory in Manila, on an inspection of Patterson's mosquito net, which showed three bullet holes penetrating it. Baty's report, available to the court-martial prosecution at the Woods trial, states:

"By folding the mosquito bar back over the canopy, it was shown it is possible the three holes could have been caused by the penetration of one bullet."

The conclusion of Baty's report is:

"It is my opinion that the penetration holes could have been produced by a passage of a .45-caliber bullet." (That was the caliber of Woods's gun.)

Why was not this vital evidence, substantiating Woods's story of an accidental shooting, introduced at a trial in which a man's life hung in the balance? Goodman, in a letter to President Truman, writes:

"The foregoing important facts in the case have the basis of this revelation, can possibly uphold UAW-CIO, ex-Army prosecutor been unjustly condemned. Albert Deutsch's ferreting out of new evidence for PM helped obtain a new trial for the doomed man. (See story on back page.) PM 11-8-46

Robert C. Guenzel and Marcus Ray, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Philippine Lawyers Guild War, who helped save Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., Detroit Negro GI, from labor lawyer Ernest Goodman, the Detroit Civil Rights Congress, the gallows to which he had

PM New York, N.Y. Wed. 11-20-46

By Albert Deutsch

Fight for Pvt. Lemas Woods Wins New Trial for Doomed Negro GI

PM New York, N.Y. Fri. 11-8-46

The fight for a new trial for the Negro GI, Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., sentenced to hang in Manila for the shooting of his friend and tentmate, Pvt. Robert Patterson, has been won. Under Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall yesterday announced the decision of the Army Reviewing Board in Washington to reverse the death penalty against Woods. Royall issued an order that the case be retried in Manila.



Albert Deutsch

Witnesses will be sent back to Manila to testify, and vital evidence suppressed at the trial deliberately or through ignorance will be introduced. There seems small likelihood, on the basis of the evidence that has been discovered, that the Detroit GI could possibly be convicted of murder, as he was after a hasty court-martial last May in which all the cards were stacked against him.

Except for a confession that Woods insisted had been forced out of him by physical violence and intimidation on the part of the Army's Criminal Division agents—*a confession that could not be verified in a single detail*—the defendant kept insisting that the fatal shooting was an accident.

The appeal in Woods's behalf before the Army Reviewing Board was substantially aided by the appearance in Washington yesterday of Robert C. Guenzel, now a Nebraska law student, who prosecuted Woods as an Army lieutenant. Guenzel was invited to Washington by the War Dept. following his telephone interview with this reporter in which he expressed belief in Woods's innocence. His testimony before the Reviewing Board was substantially the same as the remarks quoted in PM two weeks ago.

Ernest Goodman, Detroit labor lawyer who successfully appealed the case in behalf of the Detroit Civil Rights Congress and the United Auto Workers, CIO (of which Woods was a member before he joined the Army), has directed a series of pertinent questions to Maj. Gen. Edward F. Witsell of the Judge Advocate General's Office in the War Dept. Citing my interviews with both the trial judge advocate (prosecutor) and the defense counsel in the Woods case, Goodman lists these questions, significant not only for their bearing on Woods but on the Army's whole court-martial system:

¶ Why was a person permitted to represent the defendant in a life-and-death case when he obviously was not qualified to do so? (The defense counsel, Lt. Charles L. Martinelli, never had any legal experience, is now a Coca Cola salesman in California, and has bitterly condemned the court-martial system himself.)

¶ Inasmuch as the defense attorney and the trial judge advocate had no legal experience, why did not the other members of the court martial insist that all the facts be produced and that insistencies and inaccuracies in the prosecution's case be explained?

¶ And why did the Army Criminal Investigation Division advise the defense attorney not to introduce the mosquito netting (a piece of vital evidence tending to prove the fatal shot was accidental)?

¶ Why did the defense attorney find it difficult to obtain information from the CID?

¶ Why was the report of the trial judge advocate which indicated that Woods was innocent (submitted by Guenzel to his commanding officer after the trial) suppressed by the Army at the Philippine Islands, and not sent with the record to the Army Reviewing Board at Washington?

The War Dept. deserves praise for upsetting the death verdict against Woods and ordering a new trial. But there are many vital questions concerning the whole court-martial procedure that demand thorough investigation and correction. I trust the War Dept. follows through.

President Orders Retrial In Army Death Sentence

Defender Chicago, Ill. 16

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA)—President Truman has disapproved the court-martial sentence of death meted out in the Philippines to Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., of Detroit, charged with killing his friend and tentmate, and has authorized a rehearing of evidence in the case.

In announcing the President's stand last week, the War Department said that "new evidence" is to be introduced to show that Woods, who has always said the killing was an accident, may have spoken the truth. An earlier report from the Detroit Civil Rights Congress, and from CIO attorneys seeking justice for the GI, a former member of the United Automobile Workers Union, indicated that evidence of importance had been suppressed at the Philippines court martial. Sat. 11-30-46

By Albert Deutsch

Prosecutor: Doomed GI Is Innocent; Defender Raps Army Trial System

PM New York, N.Y. Fri. 10-25-46

The man who prosecuted the murder case against Private Lemas Woods, Jr., in Manila, as a result of which the 23-year-old Negro GI from Detroit was sentenced to hang, now declares: "On the basis of all the evidence now available, and considering all the aspects of the case, I definitely feel that Woods was not guilty. He should get a new trial."



Albert Deutsch

I interviewed Robert C. Guenzel of Lincoln, Nebraska, by long-distance phone. As an Army lieutenant, he served as trial judge advocate (prosecutor) in the Woods court martial last May. He is 24 years of age, and is a law student at the University of Nebraska. After the trial, in which Woods was convicted on the charge of deliberately shooting to death his friend and tent-mate, Private Robert Patterson, Lt. Guenzel sent a letter to his commanding officer expressing grave doubt of the validity of the main evidence presented against Woods. This letter, for some strange reason, didn't reach the Army Reviewing Board until Ernest Goodman, Detroit lawyer who is appealing the guilty verdict, called it to their attention.

"I don't think I have anything to be ashamed of in my own conduct of the Woods case," Guenzel told me. "I presented the evidence given me by the Army Criminal Investigation Division authorities. As prosecutor, it was my job to present as strong a case against Woods as possible. But I always had the feeling that it was a weak case. I was surprised by the failure of the defense counsel to contest the confession which Woods said had been extorted from him by violence and threats of further violence at the hands of CID investigators. I didn't think much of the testimony of the only eyewitness who testified against Woods. (*That eyewitness, Private John Hicks, has since repudiated the most important testimony brought against Woods.*—A.D.)

"Woods didn't impress me as the kind of man who would murder. I was impressed by the fact that he had renounced the confession as soon as he got out of the CID office, and was surprised that the defense counsel didn't bring up that point. Even on the basis of the available evidence, I think the court martial acted too harshly in imposing a death sentence on the man. I now believe he is innocent. He should get a new trial, by all means. I am going to write a letter to President Truman to that effect."

I located Lt. Charles L. Martinelli, defense counsel for Woods in the Manila court martial, at his home in Watsonville, Calif., with the aid of the War Dept. Martinelli, 25, is a Coca Cola salesman. One of the most shocking aspects of the whole trial was the failure of the defense counsel to put up a real defense, a fact readily discernible in reading the transcript of the trial. I also talked to Martinelli by phone yesterday.

"I believe now, as I did then, that Lemas Woods was innocent, that the shooting of his friend was purely accidental. I hope the guilty verdict is reversed, and he gets a new trial."

"It is apparent," I said, "that you didn't put up an effective case for Woods. Is there any explanation for this?" I asked.

"Well," he replied, "I found it very difficult to get material from the CID men, who did the investigating. Then I only had five or six days to present the case. I never had any previous experience in the conduct of criminal cases. I am not a lawyer, you know. On the matter of the mosquito net over Patterson's cot, I was told that the bullet holes in it didn't mean anything, one way or another, and I accepted the word of the authorities. Thinking back over it, I admit that I should have investigated that line further and introduced it as defense evidence.

"I feel strongly that the Army's custom of using inexperienced men like myself in court martials, especially in cases where a man's life is at stake, is completely wrong and should be abandoned. A man on trial for his very life deserves at the very least a professional, qualified lawyer to defend him, not just a man picked almost at random. I could have presented a far stronger defense if I had some experience in weighing evidence and some of the legal ropes."

The War Dept., I am glad to report, corrects an error in my column yesterday to the effect that the Woods appeal is now in President Truman's hands. The original death penalty has been approved by a reviewing authority, but the appeal is still before the higher echelons in the Judge Advocate General's office in the War Dept. Their final verdict hasn't been rendered yet. After it is made, the case goes before the President for final decision.

The case of Lemas Woods represents a gross miscarriage of justice. Not only should the court-martial decision be reversed, but the entire case should be thoroughly investigated so that those who helped put Woods in the shadow of the gallows can be properly dealt with and similar miscarriages averted.

Negro GI Wins New Trial

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

DETROIT, Nov. 7.—Labor and Evidence presented recently to an Army review board in Washington on a request by the Michigan CRC had uncovered. Addes today granted that he was very gratified at the news.

May in the Philippines to be hanged on a murder charge, would be granted a new trial based on evidence presented by the Michigan CRC completely refuted previous testimony of witnesses in Manila that Woods had shot a fellow soldier. The court martial prosecutor, Lt. Robert C. Guenzell, in a letter to the commanding officer in the area recently admitted that Woods, in his opinion was not guilty.

George F. Addes, UAW, Secretary-Treasurer who had taken a special interest in the case (Woods is a UAW member) had sent a letter to President Truman asking for a new trial based on evidence the CRC had uncovered. Addes today said that he was very gratified at the news.

16e 1946

Philippine Islands

GI Who Shot Tent Mate in Manila Saved From Death

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 11-16-46

Under Secretary of War Orders New Trial For Detroit Soldier Scheduled to Hang

NEW YORK—Doomed to hang for the Manila shooting of his tent mate, Pvt. Robert Patterson, last May, Pvt. Lemas Woods Jr., has been saved from death, and a new trial ordered by Under Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall.

The Army Reviewing Board in Washington reversed the death penalty after appeals had been made by Ernest Goodman, Detroit labor lawyer, in behalf of the Detroit Civil Rights Congress and the United Auto Workers (CIO).

Reporter's Efforts

Also deeply interested in seeing that justice was done was Albert Deutsch, PM reporter, who has repeatedly suggested that the whole Army court-martial procedure be thoroughly investigated and corrections instituted.

In a telephone interview with Deutsch, Robert C. Guenzel, who as an Army lieutenant, posecuted Woods, expressed his belief in Woods's innocence. Guenzel, now a law student in Nebraska, last week testified before the Reviewing Board.

Woods, during his trial and since, has maintained that the shooting was an accident, and that the confession used against him was gained after he had been subjected to physical violence and intimidation on the part of the Army's Criminal Division agents.

All witnesses will be sent back to Manila to testify during the new trial, and vital evidence either suppressed or ignored, at the other hearing, will be introduced.

Afro-American

Exoneration Expected

Observers feel that on the basis of this new evidence, the Detroit GI cannot possibly be convicted of murder.

Baltimore, Md.

Important not only for their bearing in Woods's case, but on the Army's whole court-martial system, are the following pertinent questions which Goodman has directed to Maj. Gen. Edward F. Witsell of the Judge Advocate General's Office in the War Department:

Sat. 11-16-46

Why was an unqualified person allowed to represent the defendant in a life and death case? (Defense counsel, Lt. Charles L. Martinelli, had no legal experience and has condemned the court-martial system himself.)

The Matter of Facts

Since both the defense attorney and the trial judge advocate had no legal experience, why did not the other court martial members insist that all facts be produced and inaccuracies in the prosecution's case be explained?

Why did the Army Criminal Investigation Division advise the defense lawyer not to introduce the mosquito netting (vital evidence to show the shot was accidental)?

Who made it difficult for the defense to obtain information from the CID?

Why was the report of the trial judge advocate, which indicated that Woods was innocent, suppressed by the Army at the Philippine Islands, and not sent to Washington to the Reviewing Board with the other case record? Guenzel handed such a report to his commanding officer after the trial.

UAW Fights to Save Life of Negro Soldier

The Worker New York, N.Y.

Sun. 10-20-46

By William Allan

DETROIT.—The life of an innocent man rests on the decision of President Truman. The man is Pvt. Lemas Woods, Jr., Negro auto worker from Detroit, who sits in a prison stockade in Manila awaiting hanging on a charge of murder of a fellow soldier.

Unitaed Auto Workers secretary-treasurer George F. Addes has asked Truman to reverse the conviction and death sentence on the grounds that a grave miscarriage of justice has been committed in the case.

The facts of the case, Addes declared in a letter to Truman, have not been brought out.

Attorneys have uncovered important discrepancies in the testimony and the suppression of facts and other evidence which could definitely prove the innocence of Woods.

The whole case against Woods was based on the theory that he bent down over the cot of Robert Patterson, the soldier who was shot, picked him up with one hand and shot him with a pistol held in the other.

Woods claims that the gun went off accidentally and that an examination of the mosquito net covering the murdered man's cot would show a bullet hole.

The net was never introduced into evidence by the prosecution.

Details of the new evidence and other startling facts has been forwarded by Addes to Secretary of War Robert Patterson. Under the law President Truman is the final authority in the reversing of a conviction and ordering a new trial.

The prosecution's case was based on a confession that Woods declared was gotten from him through beatings by the Army investigators.

Army Reverses Defender Death Penalty

Orders New Trial Of 'Justice' Victim

Chicago, Ill.

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Climaxing the fight of Detroit Civil Rights and CIO attorneys for justice for Pvt. Lemas Wood Jr., sentenced to hang in a Manila "quickie" courtmartial last May, the Army's board of review last week reversed the death penalty and ordered a new trial for the enlisted man.

Wood, whose prewar membership in CIO's United Auto Workers' Union brought protest of Detroit labor at evidence suppressed at his trial, is charged in the death of his tentmate, Pvt. Robert Patterson. Patterson died as result of a bullet which Wood claimed was fired accidentally while he was cleaning his gun.

Sat. 11-23-46

Vital Evidence

In announcing a new trial, Undersecretary of War Kenneth C. Royall said that new vital evidence involving a mosquito net will be introduced to show that Wood did not deliberately walk over to his sleeping friend, awaken and kill him, as prosecution had contended.

Ernest Goodman, acting as attorney for Detroit Civil Rights Congress and UAW, based his appeal for a new trial on opinion of Robert C. Guenzel, trial judge advocate prosecuting Wood. Guenzel's report that the courtmartial evidence was circumstantial and unsatisfactory had been suppressed by the Army in the Philippines and not forwarded, with case records, to the Army reviewing board at Washington.

Defended By Salesman

Goodman, taking his appeal to Maj. Gen. Edward F. Witnell of the judge advocate general's office, attacked the Army courtmartial system for permitting Wood to be defended, in a life and death matter, by a person without legal experience. Defense counsel was presented at Manila by a coca cola salesman, then Lt. Charles L. Martinelli.

Martinelli followed advice of the Army Criminal Investigation Division, bitterly attacked by Goodman in his appeal, who told the defense lawyer not to introduce the mosquito netting as evidence. Goodman implies that Martinelli's obedience to CID brought Wood's sentence for a crime he did not commit.

Wood told Goodman that a "confession" was obtained from him by violence and intimidation.

Sailors are Fined, Woman Imprisoned

News & Courier Tues 2-19-46
Charleston, S. C.

Three white sailors drew fines of $25 each in police court yesterday and a negro woman who was arrested with them was given a straight sentence of 30 days on the chain gang on charges of violating section 1 of the prostitution act.

The sailors were listed on police records as Robert Kirkum, John Orthmeyer and James McKenney. The negro woman was Eleanora Lawson, of 8 Magazine street. They were arrested at 10:25 p. m. Sunday by Policeman H. O. McDonald.

No Negro Woman Has Died In S. C. Electric Chair

News and Courier

Florence, June 23.—(AP)—Rose Marie Stinnette, 41 years old, sentenced to death here in the slaying of her husband, will be the first negro woman electrocuted by the state if her sentence is carried out.

First woman to suffer electrocution was Mrs. Sue Logue, one of three persons who were executed by the state in the feud death of an Edgefield county farmer-storekeeper. She died in 1944.

The last prior execution of any woman in South Carolina, in the recollection of State Historian Alex Salley, was that of a negro woman hanged in Orangeburg county in the late 1800s, before the state took over the burden of executions.

Sentenced to die with Rose Marie August 9 was Roy Singletary, 25. Also tried on indictments in the same crime but sentenced to life imprisonment were Foster Sparkman, 21, and Sam Frazier, 43, found guilty of being accessories.

Convicted of Slaying Husband, Second Woman to Die in S.C.

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 7-13-46

FLORENCE, S.C. (ANP)—The second woman of any race to draw the death penalty in this State, Mrs. Rose M. Stinnette, 41, convicted of slaying her husband, Charles Stinnette, last April, was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Columbia on Aug 9, by Judge L. D. Lide here, last week.

Also sentenced to death at the same time is 25-year-old Roy Singletary, her sweetheart, who was convicted of aiding in the actual slaying about a mile south of here in a plot to collect on several large insurance policies the woman held on her husband's life.

In addition, Sam Frazier, who lived with the Stinnettes, and Foster Sparkman, 21, drew life for their participation in the murder. Following the electrocution of Mrs. Sue Logue, white, for the murder of her husband, an attempt was made to outlaw the chair but was overruled when bigots held it was needed for colored criminals.

Columbia, S. C. State
October 27, 1946

Berkeley Negro To Be Executed

Moncks Corner, Oct. 26—(AP)—Charlie T. Smith, 66, Negro was convicted in Berkeley county general sessions court today of murdering Magistrate W. Calhoun Guerry at Jamestown May 25. Judge Frank Eatmon, of Kingstree, sentenced him to be electrocuted November 29.

Evidence showed that Smith, of Russellville, served two years in North Carolina for manslaughter before coming to South Carolina.

Witnesses said Guerry arrested Smith on a charge of drunkenness and that the Negro cut the magistrate's throat with a knife soon after he was put in an automobile. Guerry died in a few minutes.

Officer Is Acquitted In Blinding of Vet

Wed 11-6-46
Richmond Va

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 5—(UP)—An all-white Federal Court jury tonight acquitted Police Chief Lynwood L. Shull, of Batesburg, S. C., on charges of violating a Negro war veteran's civil rights by blinding him in both eyes.

The jury deliberated only 15 minutes before messaging Federal District Judge J. Waites Waring, of Charleston, that the verdict was ready. Times Dispatch

Shull, a middle-aged and dignified officer, had been tried for blinding Isaac Woodard, Jr., of New York, by hitting him with a pellet-type blackjack when the veteran of four years overseas was en route home after discharge.

Youth Is Sentenced To Die for Murder

Times Dispatch Richmond, Va.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Feb. 26—(AP)—A Criminal Court jury today found 16-year-old Fred Jackson guilty of first degree murder and decreed a sentence of death by electrocution. Wed 2-27-46

The Negro youth was convicted of beating to death 3-year-old Freddie Goss on January 8. The child was slain along with his 14-month-old brother, Sammy, and their mother, Mrs. Hazel Goss, was injured when she resisted her assailant's attempt at assault.

Supreme Court Upholds Death Sentence

Daily Worker Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS, TENN.—(SNS)—Johnny Outlaw, 27 and Tom Walker, 33 lost their appeal in the State Supreme Court last Saturday, and must die in the electric chair for the murder of Andrew Jackson Mitchison, 34-year-old white truck driver, employee of the Army Air Forces Supply Depot, on Jackson.

Mitchison was slain and his body thrown into a creek at the end of Warford, about a mile north of Chelsea, the night of April 21st last. Several hundred dollars worth of War Bonds reportedly were taken from the slain victim whose throat was cut. Officers said that the bonds were found in Outlaw's home.

Outlaw and Walker were given the death sentence in the Shelby County Court.

Jury Gives Death Verdict To 16-Year-Old Boy In Goss Case-2nd On Record

Memphis World, Tennessee

Death in the electric chair was the verdict decreed by a Shelby County Jury in the first division of the Criminal Court for Fred Jackson, 16-year-old youth charged with the double slaying of two infant white boys, Freddie Goss, 2 years old, and Sammie fourteen months, sons of Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Goss, of Shady Grove Road Friday Jan. 18.

Mrs. Goss, the victims' mother, according to reported confessions made by Jackson was beaten into unconsciousness and ravished by the condemned youth. Jackson lived with his parents in the same neighborhood as that of the Goss family.

Attorney General Will Gerber, less than four weeks after personally prosecuting two former police officers for reported rape on two colored girls while in uniform as representative of the Memphis Police Department, was in charge of the state's case against young Jackson. The ex-policemen were acquitted in the rape case against overwhelming evidence against them.

"The jury reached a just and correct verdict," Mr. Gerber told the press. "Fred Jackson's case was the most heinous ever committed in this county. He admitted that his purpose in going to the Goss home that morning was to ravish Mrs. Goss. He not only accomplished his purpose, but he committed a double murder on two innocent and defenseless children and sougght to cover up the entire crime by adding arson to his escapade."

Continuing with his statement, Gerber added that "He (Jackson) is smart, cunning nd above the average in intelligence for his age of 16 years. No other verdict could have been returned in this case.

WITHOUT DEFENSE Fri 3-1-46

The Jackson boy was virtually without defense. His legal representative was Public Defender Stanton, who concluded his argument to the jury by declaring "The facts are as they are. I didn't make them and I can't change them. If the state's plea to you to kill this boy should help end this sort of thing, I'd prescribe to it.

Testifying in his own behalf, however, Jackson denied all charges, slaying of the children, criminal assault on Mrs. Goss, and the charge of setting the Goss home afire. Obviously frustrated from the time of his arrest, according to reports, the condemned boy, in view of his previously good record in the neighborhood where he lived has given rise to many speculations that he was used as a tool for more sinister hands and wicked mind behind the crime.

Records show that he is the second Negro youth of sixteen years to be convicted to death, the first being Edgar McChriston who was sentenced to death for the murder of a white druggist in 1928. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, but McChriston was shot to death when he resisted arrest on a second attempt at escape from prison.

Seventeen of the eighteen persons electrocuted for murder since 1913 have been Negroes. One white man died in the chair in the year of 1939 for the insurance murder of his employee at a filling station on South Fourth St. Two Negroes in this case also died in the chair, one being a man prominently identified with church work in North Memphis.

Life Imprisonment For Police Slaying

The Call
Kansas City, Mo.

HOUSTON, Texas. — Charles Jackson, 27, was assessed a penalty of life imprisonment Friday after he was found guilty of murder by a jury in the district court of Judge Langston G. King. The jury deliberated one hour and 35 minutes.

Jackson was convicted of the fatal shooting last Aug. 17 of Police Patrolman Howard B. Hammond, white in front of a cleaning establishment in the 3700 block of Dowling St., during a fight between several Negroes and two police officers. Louis Henson, Negro, was also killed in the melee.

Fri, 11-15-46

Herman Wright, counsel for Jackson, indicated Saturday that he might file a motion for a new trial in Jackson's behalf.

In denying the shooting, Jackson, who testified in his own behalf, claimed that a confession was beaten out of him by the police.

The state had asked for the death penalty in the case.

Seamen Sentenced for Smuggling English Girls

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 6-15-46

GALVESTON, Tex.—A Federal Court on Thursday sentenced Theodore Bell and Thomas J. Hannah to six months in prison for aiding two English girls to illegally enter this country.

The two men told the court they met the girls in a London restaurant, that they "were in love" with them and brought them to this country with the intention of marrying them and taking them to Pennsylvania where marriages between white and Negro persons is legal.

They said there was not enough time for them to marry the girls in England and that after sailing from London the ship's destination was changed from New York to Galveston.



Theodore Bell



Thos. Hannah

DIFFICULT CASE

"This is a rather difficult case," commented Judge T. M. Kennerly as the trial progressed. Both girls testified that they had intentions of marrying the two mess attendants from the American steamer William C. Thornton.

Sat. 6-15-46

The girls, Rene Morris Zagansky and Joan Mary Cook were turned over to immigration authorities to await deportation proceedings.

Miss Zagansky said at the trial, "In England there is no color bar at all. Everyone is the same." She said she came to this country for the purpose of marrying Bell.

"Do you still feel that way about him," an attorney asked her. "Yes, definitely," she replied.

White Fiancees of GI's Deported

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

HOUSTON, Texas—T. J. Hanna 22 and Theodore Bell, 25, both sea men, languished in a U.S. prison this week as a result of two English girls' trying to fulfill their matrimonial dreams by joining them in this country.

Sat. 6-15-46

The girls, Joan M. Cook, 20, and Renee M. Zegansky, 17, are en route back to England, after having been ordered deported by immigration officials for entering the country as stowaways, last spring.

Their only regret, the girls said, Saturday, as they were placed aboard the SS Roy James Cole, which was to return them to London, was that they didn't get to Pittsburgh, to marry their lovers.

Sentimental Journey

The girls met their seaman sweethearts in London, last spring, and the men told them that if they could be smuggled into America, they would marry them.

The girls, both pretty brunettes, stowed away on the SS William C. Endicott, which landed in Galveston, Tex., on May 19.

Sat. 8-17-46

Live With Non-Whites

They slipped ashore and lived with a colored family at Hitchcock, Tex., for several days, before being spotted by immigration authorities and lodged in the Galveston jail.

The Afro-American

The two seamen were apprehended, tried and convicted for aiding aliens to enter the country.

As the girls were being placed aboard the SS Cole for their voyage back to London, Renee told newspapermen: "We sure learned a lot about America!"

Baltimore, Md.

Sentence McClain To 99 Years

The Call
Kansas City, Mo.
Fri. 12-20-46

Convicted Slayer Of Policeman Gets Life at Hard Labor

TYLER, Texas. — Sammy McClain was sentenced to 99 years at hard labor in the state penitentiary last Friday by a jury in the Seventh Judicial district court which convicted him of the fatal stabbing last summer of Police Officer M. J. Buie following an altercation on a city bus. Request for a new hearing was filed by defense attorneys Monday.

McClain, who testified in his own behalf, said he stabbed the white officer once with a knife which someone handed him, after Buie had struck him several times with a billy club and threatened to "work him over." McClain said he was unable to identify the person who handed him the knife.

McClain said that Officer Buie shot him before he stabbed the policeman.

During the trial McClain was forced to sit in a special chair because of gunshot injuries received during a battle with a posse of officers which captured him at his father's house near Corsicana.

McClain told the jury he did not know Buie was an officer when the latter ordered him off a city bus on the morning of June 26. When the officer again ordered him to take a seat to the rear of the bus, McClain said he moved back as far as he could but that the rear of the vehicle was too crowded to move all the way back.

It was then, McClain said, that the officer struck him several times and people began to leave the vehicle.

McClain was severely wounded following his capture in Corsicana by officers in one of Texas' biggest manhunts. He told how he was carried to a Corsicana hospital where his wounds were bandaged, thence to Tyler where he again received medical attention, and then to Dallas. Threats of mob action forced officers to move him from place to place.

Following the bus altercation, McClain said he was taken home by an unidentified truck driver. He then went to a Tyler hospital and was treated for his wounds after which he caught a taxi to Corsicana.

Convicted Man Given Stay Of One Month on Eve of Death

Richmond Times Dispatch

Ernest Edward Fagan, 31-year-old North Carolina-born Negro, of Norfolk, who was to have been executed at the State Penitentiary Friday, has been given a month's stay of execution, the State Board of Pardons and Reprieves announced yesterday.

A letter sent by the board to Major C. Frank Smyth, Jr., penitentiary superintendent, stated that Fagan's family at Williamston, N. C., had employed an attorney to exhaust all legal remedies in the case.

Thus far, no appeal has been noted.

The letter, signed by William Shands Meacham, board chairman; Russell B. Devine, and Ralph E. Wilkins, members, read as follows:

"The Virginia Board of Pardons and Reprieves has before it a stay of execution in the case of Edward Fagan, who was convicted of murder in Norfolk Corporation Court on Oct. 30, 1945, and sentenced to death, to be electrocuted on Jan. 18, 1946. We are advised there is insufficient time before the execution date to afford this man an opportunity to exhaust his legal remedies.

"In order to allow sufficient time to afford this man ample opportunity to exhaust his legal remedies, we are granting him a reprieve to Feb. 15, 1946."

Fagan will be represented by Hugh G. Horton, of Williamston, N. C.

The Negro was sentenced after he was convicted of murder in the first degree in the death of Horace Hough Cox, 42-year-old used-car dealer, on the afternoon of September 4. Witnesses testified at the trial that Fagan had admitted the murder on the day after Cox died.

Slayer of Cabbie Gets 2-Yr. Term

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

RICHMOND — Israel Henry (Buster) Garrett, accused of the murder of John G. Wyche, 46, Manhattan taxicab driver, Sept. 1, was given a 2-year penitentiary sentence by an all-white jury in Hustings Court Tuesday after a trial that lasted most of the day. Garrett, through his attorney, Howard H. Carwile, white, pleaded the "unwritten law," contending that Wyche was kissing his wife and attempting indecencies when he walked up to the cab in which the two were sitting near the corner of Harrison and Dance Sts.

Testimony Contradictory

Most of the testimony, except that relating to the number of shots fired by Garrett, was of a contradictory nature, some witnesses saying Wyche was sitting in the cab when shot, while others contend that he was standing outside tussling with Garrett when the latter broke away and began firing.

Taking the stand in his own defense, Garrett testified that when he walked to the cab and saw what was going on, he grasped Wyche by the shoulders and the man struck him on the right arm, deadening it, cut him on the rear of his pants and leaped out of the cab.

A tussle then ensued, Garrett testified, and he broke away from Wyche, stepped back a few paces and fired one shot at Wyche with the gun in his left hand. He said he then fled the scene. He was arrested the next evening in Henrico County.

Wife Stands by Mate

Mrs. Flossie Garrett, wife of the accused, who told reporters she would stick by her husband, made good her word. She testified that Wyche was "trying to make love" to her and that her husband began firing when Wyche reached toward his hip as if to get a gun.

Making a passionate plea to the jury and asking acquittal for his client, Mr. Carwile, in his closing argument declared, in part:

Carwile Defends Chivalry

"Has the time come in this nation when a devoted husband will be persecuted and convicted for murder because he has the courage and backbone bravely to defend the womanhood of his wife? We need more Buster Garretts in America.

"There are too many spineless, sissified husbands who are crying and whinning at the defeat of the sex-crazy brutes who are wrecking their homes. Buster Garrett has set an example for both the colored and white races. He deserves a medal."

Fagan Executed In Norfolk Slaying

Washington Star, Washington, D. C.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 15 (AP).—Ernest Edward Fagan, 31-year-old Norfolk Negro, paid the supreme penalty in Virginia's electric chair at the State penitentiary this morning for the murder of a Norfolk used-car dealer.

The prison physician pronounced Fagan dead at 7:39 a. m., just 5 minutes after the switch was thrown.

Fagan, North Carolina-born, died for the slaying last September 4 of Horace Hough Cox, 42, Norfolk automobile dealer. Another Negro, Frank Peterson of Norfolk, also charged with the crime, was sentenced to serve 99 years and a day in the State penitentiary.

Negro Fined $500 In Race Case

Times Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

DANVILLE, Feb. 28 — While two of Danville's leading Negro organizations moved today to try and abate irritating interracial incidents, another episode was reported overnight and O'Dell Pritchett, a recently discharged Negro soldier, was fined $500 in Police Court, the maximum under the law, for making an objectionable proposal to Miss Lucille Williams, a white waitress in a restaurant.

The defendant insisted he was talking to a Negro girl and appealed the case. Witnesses, however, testified they heard the alleged objectionable remark, heard the flaming negation of the young woman and then heard him barrage her with vile language, telling her that he would cut out her eyes and that he had enough money to get anything he wanted.

The police picked Pritchett up shortly after the incident and after Miss Williams had filed formal complaint, the Negro was identified without difficulty.

Kenneth Coleman, head of the Danville Voters' League, Negro organization, said that the local Association for the Advancement of Colored People would meet jointly Tuesday night to see whether an abatement in these acts could be brought about and by what means. Coleman intimated that the recent cases are the acts, not of Danville Negroes, but strangers here temporarily.

Man Is Jaunty At Death Sentence

Richmond Times Dispatch, Va.

DANVILLE, March 9—Jauntily asserting that he would not be killed, Nelson Cross, Negro, was led to jail this afternoon after being sentenced to die in the electric chair on April 15 for the axe murder of Eddie Johnson last December 3.

Because of the defiant remark, the condemned man, recently arrested in New York, was closely watched tonight and Virginia penitentiary authorities were asked to take charge of his removal without delay.

It was the first death sentence in 30 years in Danville.

Cross pleaded guilty and admitted he killed Johnson with an axe as he sat on his doorstep, and then thrust his body into a pit. Cross said that Johnson had stole his money and that he was angered by the deed.

White Man Jailed, Fined for Molesting Women on Street

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

DANVILLE, Va.—Hailed into court on charges of molesting colored women, Morris C. Reynolds, white plumber of 758 Main St., was sentenced to 60 days in jail and fined $200 by Magistrate Calvin Berry last week.

Accusations allegedly resulted from Reynolds calling out from his automobile to colored women on the street to enter his car for a ride. James Hutcherson, brother-in-law of one of the women, swore out the warrant for the plumber's arrest.

2 Maryland Men Die in Va. Chair

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

RICHMOND—James L. Fletcher, 24, and Robert Holland, 22, both of Salisbury, Md., accused of the murder of a white Salisbury carpenter, died in the Virginia electric chair in the penitentiary here last Friday, while protesting their innocence.

Both men contended that the white man, George S. Broughton, 46, was slain in a fight after he became intoxicated and attacked one of them, who was driving an auto owned by the victim.

Becoming frightened, hid the body in a woods, they said.

Had Arm in Cast

Broughton, who had one arm in a cast, had left Salisbury with the men with whom he was seen at several places on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

The slaying took place July 22 in Accomac County, and the alleged killers were tried and convicted last month.

Fletcher, who had been visited the day before by his sister, was the first to walk the last mile. He entered the chamber at 7:35 a.m. and was pronounced dead at 7:45, while Holland entered at 7:55 and was dead at 8 p.m.

Davis, 43-year-old Halifax County Negro, today of first degree murder in the fatal shooting Aug. 5 of John N. Woodson, a Southern Railway officer of Alexandria, and fixed his punishment at death in the electric chair.

Defense counsel moved immediately for a new trial on grounds that the verdict was contrary to the law and the evidence, and Judge J. R. H. Alexander set next Tuesday as the date for hearing arguments on the motion. The jury deliberated approximately an hour and a quarter.

With T. L. Thomas, a fellow railway detective, Woodson was investigating a series of burglaries of railway property near Catlett when they came upon Davis. Davis told the court that he had burglarized railway property but that on two occasions before the Woodson shooting he had been robbed, and for that reason suspected he was about to be victimized again when Woodson and Thomas stopped him.

The defendant testified that Woodson reached for a pistol and that he, Davis, then fired at the officer's feet. When Woodson continued to finger his pistol, Davis said he fired at the detective's arm or shoulder to protect himself, using a .22 calibre single action revolver.

Davis declared that the officers did not identify themselves, that they were in civilian clothes and wore no badges.

with No. [illegible] mon and medium 7.50-11.00, down to 6.00.

NEGRO MUST DIE FOR SLAYING OF OFFICER

WARRENTON, Va., Oct. 17. (AP) —A Fauquier County Circuit Court jury convicted William

16e 1946

Wisconsin

Man Given Life Term For Killing Witness

Louisville, Ky.
COURIER-JOURNAL

Superior, Wis., March 1 (AP)—James Tyler, 42, Minneapolis Negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the State Prison at Waupun when he pleaded guilty today to first-degree murder of Lorraine Edin, 22, whose body was found last October in the fire-swept ruins of a deserted shack near Danbury.

The victim had been a witness before a federal grand jury which indicted Tyler on charges of violating the Mann Act.

3-9-46

16f 1946

Former AME Boy Evangelist Hitler's Best Man in U.S.

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat 5-4-46

WASHINGTON.

Reader's Scope for May charges that "the brains of American fascism," and "the leading intellectual exponent of American National Socialism" is a colored man with a "super mind," a native of Atlanta, Ga., a Washington resident, and a former AME boy evangelist.

He is Lawrence Dennis, graduate of Harvard University and Phillips Exeter Academy who, passing as white, worked in the State Department for seven years, was employed as an economist by at least two large, reputable Wall Street banking houses. Sat 5-4-46

His work with the State Department brought about his selection to conduct the peace conference and the first phase of American intervention in Nicaragua in 1926.

The author of several books on fascism, capitalism, war and revolution and publisher of the Weekly Foreign Letter, Dennis won the admiration of the Nazis who elevated him to a high post. He is now branded as "a dangerous American." Sat 5-4-46

At the 1937 Nazi Party Conference at Nuremberg, where the Nazi racial laws were promulgated, he was treated "with the greatest respect and honor."

In 1940, Herbert Von Strempel, then Foreign Secretary of the German Embassy in Washington, said of him, "Dennis is the best man in America for us."

Charged With Sedition

In 1944, the U.S. Department of Justice described Dennis as the "Alfred Rosenberg of the American Nazi-fascist movement." He has been charged with sedition against his country, and is out on bail awaiting a new trial.

His belief in fascism "is due most likely to early hatreds and frustrations," according to the magazine. Dennis, an evangelist at 12, preached at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington. He is the son of Green Dennis and Cornelia Walker Dennis.

Birth and Adoption

Born in Atlanta on Dec. 25, 1893, adoption records at Fulton County Courthouse show that he was adopted by Green Dennis when two and a half years old on Oct. 13, 1896. Sat 5-4-46

The application stated that "Lawrence Montgomery is the son of Sallie Montgomery who had consented to the adoption, and that Green Dennis desired the name of Lawrence Montgomery to be changed to Lawrence Dennis," which was granted by Judge K. H. Lumpkin.

SHOCK SURVEY

Pittsburgh Courier

Lawrence Dennis Expose Shocks Whites, Not Because He's a Fascist, But, a Negro

By HORACE R. CAYTON

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

Pittsburgh Pa. Sat. 5-11-46

NEGROES turn up in the queerest places. That's what makes this race problem so difficult. You can never tell whether some people are light complexioned Negroes or dark complexioned whites. Just the past week or so it was discovered that Lawrence Dennis, America's number one Fascist intellectual, is a Negro, and that's what got me off on this subject this week.

As I say, one can never be sure with some people whether they're talking to Negroes or whites. There is a famous store in Chicago noted for its anti-Negro attitudes. Curiously enough, more Negro girls have worked at that store passing for white than any other in the city. The management would be shocked to find that so many of its good employes in the past have had dark blood and, perhaps, quite a few who are working there now. For, and get this straight, Negroes can arrive at a state of biological whiteness where no one can tell them even though there is a myth that Southerners and Negroes have some sort of extra-sensory mechanism denied to the rest of the population.



Mr. Cayton

Then it can work the other way. A white liberal friend of mine came to me in great consternation a few days ago. He took me aside and whispered as if he were giving me some vital secret on the atomic bomb. What he said was this: "Look, Cayton, I have an appointment to take a Negro girl to lunch. Now as you know, I have no prejudice, but I would hate for her to be humiliated. So won't you please tell me some restaurant, a nice restaurant, in the downtown area where I can take her without fear of embarrassment?"

• • •

MY FIRST impulse was to tell him to take her any place, as it was very unlikely that a white man would be refused service even though he was eating with a Negro. But thinking better of it, I asked him what she looked like. He answered that she was very fight complexioned and that I might know her. "As a matter of ract," he said, "she is writing a publicity for the National Association of Colored People."

"Man," I answered, "that woman is white." And she was. She was a dark-complexioned white foman, but my liberal friend assumed that just because she was working for a Negro organization, she would have to be a Negro. You see, it just doesn't make sense.

But to get back to Lawrence Dennis. It seems that Mr. Dennis, who has been described as the brains of American fascism and is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard University, has been found to have colored blood. Of course, as George Schuyler pointed out last week, lots of people have known that for a long time, but this is the first time it was printed. I remember when a reporter for a large national magazine started doing a story on Dennis. After tracing down the man's record he came to the conclusion that he was a Negro and reported it to his publication, which promptly killed the story. That was at least three or four years ago. But now it's out in the open and even Walter Winchell had something to say about it on his Sunday evening broadcast a couple of weeks ago. Sat. 5-11-46

The story in Reader's Scope, a liberal or left-wing magazine, though carefully phrased, seems to use this expose' as a method of further discrediting this American Fascist by pointing out that he is not all white. This isn't the angle that intrigues me. Knowing that hundreds of thousands of Negroes "turn white" every year, I would expect to see some in the camps of the Communists, Fascists, and even among Wall Street bankers. What amuses me is how humiliating and chagrined must be the many white people with whom Dennis has worked all these years at the fact that they have been friendly, even intimate, not with a Fascist, but with a Negro. Take the years that he worked at the State Department. He must have eaten at the Mayflower Hotel, been a guest at many cocktail parties, perhaps even associated with white women. That he turned out to be a Fascist didn't disturb the State Department so much, but, boy, now that they know that they've had social equality with a Negro, that's something else again.

• • •

THEN Dennis worked as economist for at least two large and reputable Wall Street banking houses. To know that a Fascist had been connected with these institutions won't disturb them very much, but that a Negro had invated the citadel of capitalism as a professional economist will shock them to their roots.

There are two little morals to draw from this—one for white folks and one for colored folks. White folks should learn from the fabulous and amazing career of Mr. Dennis that they can never be sure whom they're talking to and that Negroes turn up in the most unexpected places. Those Negroes who pass can no more be detected by their ideology than they can by the fact that they have or have not half moons in their finger nails. And Negroes should learn that Americans, and especially the wealthy and powerful, are not shocked or ashamed because they have associated with one who is alleged to be a native Fascist, but are humiliated to know that a so-called Negro has been in their midst. Sat. 5-11-46

Of course, it's really stupid to call Dennis a Negro because he has a few drops of colored blood. That's another story, however. At the present time I'm satisfied to get a deep belly laugh from the discomfort of our State Department and the two Wall Street banking firms who have unwittingly been on terms of social equality with a light complexioned brother in black.

Aroused Black Men Against Jews

Nazis Used Curious Detours in Attempt to Propagandize Negroes

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 12-26-46

By ROI OTTLEY, Courier Foreign Correspondent

One of the curious paradoxes of World War II was that the Axis, despite its notorious racism, made overtures to the Negro, especially in France and Africa. Thus, there were those who became entranced by Fascist slogans and indeed became collaborationists in France.

Handicapped by the pronouncements of "Aryan" racial superiority in "Mein Kampf," the Nazis followed curious detours in their attempts to propagandize the Negro. One approach was to try to rouse the black man against the Jews.

Africa's importance in the war caused the Nazis to cynically postpone the application of Hitler's anti-Negro philosophy in France. In the occupied countries, they enforced their brutal anti-Semitism with a savageness well known to

Handicapped by the pronouncements of "Aryan" racial superiority and limited their proscriptions to in "Mein Kampf," the Nazis followed a temporary ban on Negro theatrical curious detours in their attempts. But they were surprisingly lenient with the black Frenchmen day. When Marshal Petain named the

BILBO MUST GO!

Minister of Colonies, the fact seemed to suggest that fascism in France would be relatively free from the racial bias that distinguished it in Hitler's Germany. But Lemery was actually a Leon Daudet follower and himself a Fascist.

Whatever the reasons, I was candidly surprised to discover in Paris a body of Black Fascists. Yet, a Negro can logically be one in Europe. When I visted that hellhole, "Drancy," where 15,000 Jews were held captive during the Nazi occupation, and which, when the Allies liberated Paris, was converted into a prison for Fascists, I found some 200 Negroes being held there for trial as Fascists. They certainly demonstrated no love for me even though I was a Negro.

I suppose my surprise was the result of a legend back home. "No Negro can be a Fascist." But upon my return to the U. S., I was to discover that one of the leading intellectual exponents of American National Socialism was a Negro, Lawrence Dennis! A graduate of Exeter and Harvard and a one-time employe of the State Department, he expounded his Fascist theories in two books, "Is Capitalism Doomed" and "The Dynamics of War and Revolution." He was eventually charged with sedition against the U. S.

PASSED AS WHITE

Lawrence Dennis passed as a white man for years, according to a story which appeared in Reader's Scope. Early in his career, he was a preaching prodigy. He held a great revival one at the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D. C., of which the Rev. Oscar J. W. Scott was pastor. Even his neighbors on Vernon Street, in Washington remember him as of light complexion, and as one of their own, a Negro. Yet, he became a spokesman for Fascism, which would indeed ensalve the Negro.

To be sure, every Negro in France did not find things home-cooking during the Nazi occupation. Nazi efficiency in corralling those who might be enemies, naturally extended to Negroes. Every foreign-born Negro in France, a national of the Allied nations, was rounded up and thrown into internment camps, not concentration camps unless identified with the underground movement.

SWORN FIGHTERS

But I did indeed, meet Negroes who were sworn fighters in the Resistance Forces, and were among the brave band that courageously fought off Nazi tank and machine-gun attacks in the shadows of the Hotel de Ville (City Hall), when the FFI seized the government buildings the day of liberation before the arrival of the Allied troops.

So, along with white Americans Canadians, Englishmen and South Americans, Negroes were snatched from the streets of France and became prisoners of war—treated no worse, nor better than whites. Those in camps located in France were liberated when the Allies swepted across the country, and hundreds of them streamed into Paris. I saw them. They were a shabby, woe-be-gone group.

The experiences of Negroes in Europe, should point profound lessons for Negroes in the U. S.: Beware of gift-bearing Greeks and colored men asking for loans! Though the bulk of Negroes do not realize it, the race has a powerful weapon in its numbers, which various self-seeking sections of the white population are trying to exploit.

MORE PROMISES

Especially, is this evident during election periods, when politicians promise the people pie in the sky. Negroes should guard against the Fascist movement in the U. S., which would enslave them if it came to power. But for the present, they are willing to promise Negroes a social emancipation, in order to utilize tis mass power. Once having gotten into power, they would sell the race down the river.

But the fact is, Negroes living in France complained that the Frenchmen, traditionally a friend of the Negro, lacks sincerity in racial matters. Especially were the cries loudest from blacks born outside France. They claimed the Frenchman only gave lip service to liberalism and discriminated against him in jobs. Negroes compared their treatment by the Nazis with that of the French and felt they came off worse at the hands of the French.

FEWER JOBS

Actually, less jobs were open to them during the Nazi occupation. But when the Nazis found themselves with a labor shortage, naturally blacks as everyone else was pressed into service.

16g 1946

NAACP Probes Death of Prisoner in Capital Jail

PM New York, N.Y.
Mon. 11-4-46

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People has begun an investigation into the mysterious death of a 24-year-old Negro who succumbed Saturday to a cerebral hemorrhage in the District of Columbia jail 24 hours after being charged with the murder of a detective.

An NAACP spokesman told PM that the death of Charles W. Scott "has definite intimations of other than natural causes."

An autopsy performed yesterday by Dr. C. J. Murphy, and a report on the cause of death was withheld pending chemical and pathological examination. Whether an official inquiry into Scott's death will be held will depend on Murphy's findings.

Scott was arrested Friday after a stolen car he was driving smashed into a truck. Detective Harry E. Hamilton, who was clinging to a fender of the stolen car, died later in the day. Scott was given emergency treatment at Washington Casualty Hospital and was then removed to Gallinger Hospital by two detectives.

At Gallinger, Scott was treated for head and shoulder cuts. Dr. George McCormick, who treated him, turned him back to the detectives in the belief, according to Gallinger Superintendent Dr. Alvin R. Sweeney, that he would be taken to the District jail hospital.

Instead, Scott was taken to Police Court, where he was charged with auto theft and placed under $10,000 bond by Police Judge George Neilson. Four hours later, after Hamilton died, Scott was again brought before Neilson, this time on a charge of murder.

Neilson told Washington papers that he had suggested to court bailiffs that Scott be taken to a hospital after the first arraignment and was surprised to see him a second time. Scott spent the four hours interval waiting for the jail bus in the court house detention room.

On arrival at the jail, Scott was found to be perspiring heavily, but his blood pressure was reported to be normal. He was found unconscious Saturday morning and died in an oxygen tent at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Negro Tells Of Torture To Force Confession

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5—(AP)—Costell Jones, 37-year-old Negro, told in Federal Court yesterday of being beaten with a hose and burned with a blow torch by Newton County (Miss.) law enforcement officials in August, 1941, until he confessed killing a man.

Thurs. 12-5-46

Then Jones, who in November, 1941, escaped from prison where he had been sentenced to serve a life term, stripped to the waist and shower Judge Elwyn R. Shaw scars on his body and burns on his chest.

Jones, who appeared in court on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus to void a Mississippi fugitive warrant on which he was arrested last August, won his freedom when Judge Shaw granted the writ. Judge Shaw said Mississippi state authorities had failed to appear to defend themselves against the charges.

"I believe this witness," Judge Shaw said. "His body bears plenty of signs of the torture he testified to."

Jones testified he was sentenced to prison on a charge of murdering Clay McComb, of Lake, Miss., a white man, after a trial at which he said he was not allowed to testify or present defense witnesses. He said he witnessed the shooting, which followed a fight between a taxicab driver and McComb. Later Jones said, the driver gave him the gun, and after he had sold it he was arrested.

Jones told Judge Shaw after his arrest by Newton County sheriff's police he was taken to police headquarters and tortured until he signed a confession, although he could not read or write anything except his name.

Demand Probe of Negro's Death in D.C. Prison

The Worker
New York, N.Y.
Sun. 11-17-46

By Fred Vast

The Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON.—Demands for a full investigation of the mysterious jail death of Charles W. Scott are being pressed by the National Negro Congress and other civic groups.

A mass meeting protesting police brutality last night spurred the campaign for more information in the Scott case.

Mrs. Marie Harris, executive secretary of NNC Washington Council, questioned the coroner's report which blamed Scott's death on anaphalatic shock and injection of a serum.

The congress is demanding the District Commissioners immediately appoint a committee to investigate fully the circumstances surrounding Scott's death. These include treatment of Scott by police officers.

The 24-year-old Negro was the driver of an allegedly stolen car which crashed into a truck, seriously injuring one policeman and killing another. The officers had been hanging on the sides of the car in an effort to stop it.

After being taken to a hospital and having his wound treated in 20 minutes, Scott appeared in Judge Neilson's court at 10:30 a. m. on Nov. 1. Noting that Scott could hardly stand up, Neilson ordered him returned to the hospital.

The order was never carried out. Scott remained in the court house. Meanwhile Detective Harry Hamilton succumbed to injuries received in the auto crash. **At 2:30 p. m. Scott was hauled back into Judge** Neilson's court on a murder charge.

"I thought I told you to take him to the hospital," Neilson said to the deputy marshal. "If something isn't done right away for this man there may be another casualty. And they are going to hold someone responsible. I want it made clear it isn't going to be me."

Scott was then taken to the prison infirmary. He died 24 hours later. Judge Neilson commented he never saw a man in worse shape in the courtroom.

Witnesses who have seen Scott's body after he died were amazed at the large amount of blood visible around his head and bruises that could be seen. They hinted at a

WASHINGTON.—Voicing their indignation against "police violence sweeping the city," which they said is symbolic of the anti-Negro lynch terror in the south, 300 citizens, meeting here demanded:

1. An immediate coroner's inquest into the mysterious jail death of Charles Scott.

2. District of Columbia commissioners to set up a committee to investigate alleged cases of police brutality.

3. Major Harvey Callahan, superintendent of police, to take steps to put an end to police brutality.

4. Police officers guilty of violence to be dismissed immediately and prosecuted.

Among speakers was the attorney for Robert Lodge, who accuses police of an unprovoked assault in which he was knocked unconscious and his leg broken.

The National Negro Congress stated civic delegations would be organized to visit local authorities.

Legal Lynching Under Probe

The Informer
Houston, Texas

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—What is tantamount to a legal lynching in the District of Columbia is under investigation by the United States Marshal's office as the result of the mysterious death of Charles W. Scott, 24, who was held over for twenty-four hours in municipal court November 1, despite injuries.

Sat. 11-16-46

Scott died in the District jail twenty-four hours later. Judge George Neilson had requested Scott's hospitalization, but he was kept four hours in soul custody of the marshal's office and never returned to any hospital for treatment.

United States Marshal Michael Kearney refused to comment until the investigation is completed.

Scott, who lived at 476 O street northwest, was being held in connection with the death of Policeman Harry E. Hamilton. Driving a stolen car, Scott was spotted by Detectives Hamilton and Clyde O. Rouse. They leaped to the sides of the car and were hurled off when the car crashed. Private Hamilton died shortly afterwards of his injuries and Detective Rouse is still in critical condition.

Taken to Gallinger Hospital, his superficial cuts were dressed and Scott was turned over to the police.

Arraigned befoe Judge Neilson, Scott as barely able to stand while murder charges were being read to him. Judge Neilson asked that the prisoner be returned to the hospital. His request was ignored, although it was stamped on Scott's papers. Scott died less than twenty-four hours later.

Decision By Coroner Hit

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Washington, D. C.—(NNPA)—Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald's verdict in the death of Chas W. Scott, 22, was challenged last Thursday by a Howard University pathologist, who said that his independent examination of the body did not support the coroner's diagnosis.

Fri. 11-22-46

Dr. Robert S. Jason, Howard University pathology department head, stated that he had found no vehicle driven by Scott.

Dr. Jason said that he could have overlooked the punctures, but that since this was "a very unusual type of death," he felt the coroner should be required to substantiate his findings. "The burden of proof is on the coroner," Dr. Jason declared.

The coroner attributed the death of Scott on November 2 to shock following the administration of anti-tetanus serum. Scott being held in the death of Police Detective Harry E. Hamilton, who died, clinging to the doors of a stolen

Court in connection with the un
of an automobile, and hard under
$10,000 bond. Scott was charged
with murder four hours later
when Detective Harry E. Hamil

United States' Marshal's office of what allegedly amounted to official murder of a 24-year-old Negro prisoner in the District of Columbia.

Sat. 11-16-46

Charles W. Scott, held for four hours by police despite the recommendation of Judge George Neilson that he be sent at once to a hospital, died in jail of a cerebral hemorrhage 24 hours after his arrest.

First arraigned in Nelson's

Defender
Death P

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Dies In Jail
Chicago, Ill.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—
— Demand of
week brought

Youth Di D.C. Prisoner

ton died of injuries received in an auto crash while he was attempting to arrest Scott.

On Scott's first court appearance after superficial treatment had been administered to the prisoner for cuts and bruises, Judge Neilson ordered the dazed man sent at once to a hospital.

But four hours later, scarcely able to stand, Scott was brought before Neilson again, this time on the murder charge.

Neilson, who had stamped his hospitalization order on Scott's papers, expressed amazement that the prisoner was not under a doctor's care. Before morning Scott died in the District jail under an oxygen tent.

On Friday, Scott, driving a stolen car, was spotted by Hamilton and Detective Clyde Rouse. Both leaped to the running board and were hurled off when the car crashed into a truck. Hamilton later died of his injuries.

NAACP, charging that the young Negro's death "has definite intimations of other than natural causes" demanded a probe. An autopsy on Scott's body was ordered. United States Marshal Michael Kearney declined to comment until medical reports were complete.

16g 1946

Fixing Cases

EAST TENNESSEE NEWS
Atlanta Daily World Atlanta Ga.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HAL Clements, of Knox County, announces plans for halting the "fixing" of criminal cases, and his announced plan will meet the approval of all good citizens.

Negroes more so than any other class of our populace are victims of these schemes to filch money from their pockets by individuals who hang about each and every one of our courts, waiting to pounce on individuals who find themselves in the toils of the law with promises to have their cases tossed out for a price. 1-24-46

Several months ago three young Negroes were charged with the serious crime of killing a man by drowning. A certain Negro who lurks about the county jail as a janitor approached the father of one of the Negro defendants with a proposition to have the charges dismissed for a price. The parent had employed a lawyer who was rendering satisfactory service in the matter. When the father refused to furnish the fee to the would be "fixer', the Negro encensed over ish failure to collect a fee from the parent incensed over employment of another lawyer to prosecute the case and but for the vigorous fight for the defendants, coupled with the evidence that the accused men were not guilty, they would have faced the electric chair.

It may be well for the attorney general to extend his investigations to these grafters who promise to have cases "fixed" as they force many ignorant people to pay their money over to them.

Liquor Law Enforcers Lose Borrowed Negro Convict Plus 5 Bucks

Montgomery Advertiser Alabama

2-15-46

Liquor enforcement officers who "borrowed" a Negro convict to help catch "bootleggers" near the state capitol returned Wednesday without the convict and minus $5 they had given him to buy whisky for evidence.

This is how it happened said Capt. M. W. Kimbrough, head of the Public Safety Department's enforcement division, and Howard Thames, capitol building superintendent.

The convict, assigned to duty at the capitol as a trusty, got drunk en route back to Kilby Prison at the end of the day Tuesday. After questioning, he agreed to show where he had bought the liquor.

Next morning Thames, who has charge of trusties working at the capitol, called in state liquor agents. Following the convict, they arrested two Negro women and a man on charges of selling whisky without a license. 2-15-46

Then the prisoner promised to reveal more, so the agents decided to keep him the rest of the day and return him to prison when they were through. To get the liquor necessary for evidence, they gave the Negro $5.

And that, they said, was the last they saw of him.

Kilby Prison Warden R. Pitt Williams said last night he still was at large.

Prisoners Object To Uncle Tom Film

Amsterdam New York
2-2-46

Prisoners at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Conn. don't like being "rehabilitated" with Uncle Tom films. Ninety inmates, Negroes and whites, have petitioned the warden to stop showing such pictures in the prison.

The protest was prompted by the showing of the film, "Colonel Effingham's Raid" which, according to the petition "portrays the Negroes as naturally inferior people, fit only to be servants and lackeys of the white 'master race,."

Sat.

Prisoners' Petition

The petition goes on: "Instead of being shown as intelligent human beings, they are characatured as ignorant, cowardly Uncle Toms. The Nazis would like it but we don't. Thousands of men of color gave their lives in the second world war—supposedly for the Four Freedoms and against racial prejudice. But Hollywood has not stopped the practice of spreading lies and prejudice against people of color. And the U. S. government has not stopped exhibiting these pictures in its so-called correctional institutions."

Showing of the film was in the prison auditorium where jimcrow seating was eliminated several years ago as a result of an inmate protest action. Federal correctional institutions, prisons for men with sentences of less than five years, make much of their so-called rehabilitation programs. 2-2-46

Ruling Ends Age-Old Fight Against Bias

Atlanta Ga. Daily World 1-30-46

Warden Lauded For Progressive Prison Changes

MILAN, Mich. — (ANP) —The age-old color line at the federal correctional institution here was suddenly ended last month, bringing to conclusion a fight that was started by inmates several years ago against compulsory racial segregation.

Since 1942, when Charles Wellman, a conscientious objector, was deprived of privilges and later transferred to Chillicothe reformatory in Ohio for refusing to accept the segregation pattern, there have been literally scores of interviews with the warden and other prison officials.

Letters and petitions sent to Washington by both colored and white inmates and by interested outsiders brought no immediate results. Several other conscientious objectors, both white and colored took action which resulted in loss of privileges to themselves because they would not cooperate in the racial segregation policy. Linwood Dodge, white, went to the "hole" several times for insisting on eating with his Negro friends.

Milton Kramer, white, was put into isolation, had one year of conditional release time taken from him, and later was transfered to Terre Haute penitentiary in Indiana for protesting the policy of the Red Cross in segregating the blood of Negroes and whites. He protested in a letter he handed personally to a Red Cross doctor in the institution just before he donated some of his own blood. 1-30-46

Joseph Guinn and Wallace Nelson, colored, and Roger Axford, white, spent months in isolation and were transferred to Danbury prison in Connecticut, because they could not conscientiously eat in a jim crow dining hall. In spite of this agitation, the officials of the prison always stated that there would surely be a race riot if segregation were broken down.

However, on Dec. 4, five colored Jehovah's Witnesses, at their own request were moved into one of the two dormitories occupied by the rest of the 'J. W.'s" The following day, a colored cell block invited white inmates to apply for permission to move in with them. Six men, five of them conscientious objectors, moved, making this an interracial cell block. Interracial eating also started in the dining hall.

Although there followed the derogatory and even inflammatory remarks by certain inmates and certain officials usual to such a change, there was no violence of any kind. A number of men sent in a note of commendation to the warden for the progressive change in policy he had instituted. On Dec. 31, this mixed cell block offered a party with an interracial talent program which was attended by men from all other living quarters and which effectively showed what perfect harmony can exist where racial barriers are wiped out. 1-30-46

Lad, 18, Saved From Chair By La. Governor

Chicago Defender Nat. 1-5-46

LEESVILLE, La.—George Edwards Jr., 18, was snatched from the death chair this week by an 11th hour reprieve signed by acting governor J. Emile Verrette.

The high school student allegedly shot and killed a white peddler in Vernon Parish, and was sentenced to be electrocuted at Baton Rouge last Friday. A delay until May 24 was granted by the reprieve.

The boy charges that he was brutally beaten and hung by the toes in order to force a confession, and that after refusing to confess committing the crime he was told that if he would sign certain papers, he would be taken home.

He signed the papers and was carried to the court house and tried without having had an opportunity to converse with relatives or friends from the time he was first arrested, Oct. 15, until after the trial and conviction, Jan. 21. Sat.

Seek New Phila. Trial For Convicted Negro

Daily Worker New York 3-18-46

PHILADELPHIA, March 17.—KKK justice received a work-out here last Wednesday when a 22-year-old Negro was indicted, tried, and convicted in less than three hours on 11 charges ranging from rape to burglary and assault with intent to kill. The victim was Nick Williams, restaurant worker of 430 Lombard st. who has no previous record. The trial jury, which included four Negroes, never left the jury box. Williams had no chance to produce witnesses or consult a lawyer, and was represented at the trial only by the court defender.

Judge Harry S. McDevitt, notorious redbaiter, who charged the recent General Electric strike pa-

Charleston [illegible] bound [illegible] doubt. [illegible] convicted [illegible] electric chair [illegible] It has been almost a year since we had a similar criminal case in the area. The criminal was tried and sentenced to death. About the same time, a Negro bus driver, [illegible] murdered a bus driver, [illegible] sentenced to pay the penalty for his crime. Mar. 3-6-46

To date, neither of the [illegible] nals has been electrocuted, and are still lying up in the county jail. Just what are they waiting for, and who is responsible for this delay in justice? A great many people are making some broad insinuations about it, and it seems to be the general opinion that someone is getting something out of it. Will the latest criminal receive the same treatment from some high official? This case is being watched with a great deal of interest by a great many people. No one in his right mind approves of lynch law, but when a criminal is fairly tried and sentenced, and if that sentence is openly ignored by some one higher up, it is simply carrying things a little too far. The people of South Carolina will stand for just so much and no more. Let us hope that justice will prevail.

BOB GOETHE.
122-A Potamac street,
North Charleston.

Slow Punishment

Atlanta Daily World
To The News and Courier:

Last week a negro [illegible] have criminally [illegible] saulted a white [illegible] got only a few years [illegible] from South Carolina [illegible] Secretary of State Byrnes' home state, and does not read or write.

Judge Claims Case Pending When Story Was Published

Memphis World, Tennessee
Dri 5-10-46

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (ANP) — Negro citizens throughout Little Rock and the surrounding section were reported incensed last week over the treatment of L. Christopher Bates and his wife, publisher and city editor of the Arkansas State Press, who were sentenced to 10 days in jail and fined $100 each by Circuit Judge Auten on a contempt of court charge.

Committed to the Pulaski county jail immediately after the hearing Monday, both defendants were released later in the day on bonds of $500 each under order of Chief Justice Griffin Smith, who granted a write of certiorari under which their conviction will be appealed to the supreme court. The writs are under consideration by circuit court.

INTIMIDATION CLAIMED

Mr. and Mrs. Bates were cited by Judge Auten in connection with publication in the Arkansas State Press, weekly newspaper, of accounts of the trial of three Negro CIO members which the judge held were written so as to "intimidate" and "embarrass" the court in the administration of justice.

A response by defense lawyers Elmer Schogen and Ross Robley denied that the article was intended to discredit the court, but held it was written "in an honest effort to inform readers of the Arkansas State Press of the proceedings, and that in acquiring this information they used the court records as made up on the trial of the State vs. Roy Cole, Jesse Bean and Louis Jones, together with such other information as they were able to acquire from what they thought to be reliable sources and without any intention on their part to embarrass this court or to interfere with the due and proper administration of the law."

It was emphasized that the three CIO members were convicted Mar. 19 and sentenced March 23, and that the article in question appeared March 29. Thus it was impossible to influence the court, the lawyers declared.

CASE STILL PENDING

Judge Auten replied that since a motion for a new trial was filed on April 3, and overruled the following day, the case technically was still pending in first division circuit court when the story was published.

Dri 5-10-46

James H. Penick, one of three jury commissioners named to appoint jurors who tried the union men, was present in the courtroom under subpoena as a witness during the Bates' trial, but was not called to the stand. Mark Valentino and J. N. Heiskell, the other members of the jury commission, were out of town and were not subpoenaed.

Schogen and Robley were granted 20 days in which to file a record

Doomed Lad Tells More Of Brutality In Leesville Jail

New Orleans Weekly, Louisiana
New Orleans, La.

George Edwards Jr., whose sensational story in last week's Louisiana Weekly revealed Nazi-like atrocities suffered at the hands of the Leesville, La. law force, again this week wrote more details of the mishandling of the law by Leesville officials. Another one of his letters reached Attorney William Henry Huff, his Chicago lawyer.

Edwards is held in the DeRidder, La., jail pending his trial, which will probably be held some time before May 24, which is the deadline of his 90-day stay of execution granted by Acting Governor J. Emile Verrett. He is charged with the murder of a white peddler.

Continously, Edwards has been writing to Attorney Huff about the periodical treatment he has been receiving from the hands of his captors. Many of his letters have failed to reach the noted peonage lawyer. However, from the latest that have managed to get through, the following excerpts were taken.

Edwards claims that during his trial "the state officers wouldn't let me get my witness."

He further stated: "And they had men on the jury which I knew and which I knew hated me, and they wouldn't take them off."

Edwards also charged that he continuously offered to collect evidence and witnesses of his innocence, but he was continously called a "liar" by both the sheriff and his party and the judge. He says: "Just to show how they framed me, they told me one Sunday that if I'd swear my dad killed the man they would let me go but I would not do it."

In another instance, Edwards stated: "The sheriff came in here one day and drew a gun on me and tried to make me let him read my mail but I refused."

The majority of Edwards' letters to his lawyer continues to show evidences of brutality heaped upon him.

14 Convicts Flee Kilby Prison Farm

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Work Squad Overpowers Guard, Seizing Truck For Daring Getaway

11 Are Recaptured

Mon 4-14-46

Officials Use Dogs To Aid In Search For Negroes After Tuesday's Break

Fourteen Negro convicts, nine of whom later voluntarily surrendered themselves to searchers, overpowered their guard and escaped in a truck from Kilby Prison's No. 4 farm yesterday.

Three of the escapees, Alonza Howard, James C. Johnson and Charlie Johnson, were still at large last night, Carl Williams, Kilby warden, said.

Searchers, with the aid of dogs, caught two of the convicts yesterday afternoon in the vicinity of Matthew's Station.

According to Warden Williams the prisoners overcame their guard yesterday morning at 10:30, taking his weapon. They then waited until noon when a truck brought their lunch to the No. 4 farm and overpowered the driver of the truck, taking his gun.

A local farmer who happened to be in the vicinity was also held by the convicts, the warden added.

Then the escapees took the truck and drove away from the No. 4 farm, forcing the driver, guard and the farmer to accompany them.

The convicts tied their three prisoners in the woods beyond Matthew's Station and left in the truck. Later, according to Williams, the three who are still at large forced the 11 who have been recaptured to leave the truck. Nine of these surrendered voluntarily to the search party about five miles from Pike Road.

Mon. 4-17-46

Williams said the first news he had of the escape was at 2 p. m. yesterday when the guard, who had managed to release himself, phoned him.

Local and county authorities and the State Highway Patrol are aiding in the search.

Prison officials listed the escaped men as:

Howard, Wilcox County, convicted of robbery, and serving 20 years.

James Johnson, Mobile County, grand larceny, five years.

Charlie Johnson, Jefferson County, murder second degree, 99 years.

Henry Brown, Jefferson, assault with intent to ravish, 12 to 15 years.

Albert Hunter, Montgomery County, grand larceny and receiving stolen property, three years.

Henry Edwards, Jefferson, grand larceny and manslaughter, 10 years.

Tuck Fore, Monroe, assault to ravish, 15 to 20 years.

Julius Bryant, Jefferson, burglary, three years.

Charlie Stoudemier, Jefferson, murder, life.

Tommie O. Owens, Jefferson, assault to murder, two years.

Mon Johnson, Jefferson, embezzlement (two cases) 18 months and 233 days.

James Singleton, Tallapoosa, assault with weapon, 478 days.

Jimmie Lee, alias Willie Pippin, Talladega, burglary, two years.

Woodrow Wilson Holifield, Perry, assault to murder, five years.

Jap Artillery Shell Costs Negro $500

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 26—Circuit Court Judge Eugene Carter fined a Negro, Freeman Pickett, $500 after hearing charges that Pickett had placed a Japanese anti-aircraft shell in the boiler of his employer's packing plant.

Assistant Solicitor Evans Hinson said the incident occurred during a recent strike at the packing plant and that had the shell exploded, the charge would have been a felony.

Hinson told the court that Pickett pleaded guilty to "attempting to set off an explosive in a building," a misdemeanor.

Negro's Death in Capital Jail Fails To Bring Inquiry

PM New York, N.Y.
Mon. 11-11-46

By EDWIN NEWMAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—The case of Charles W. Scott, 22-year-old Negro who died in the District of Columbia jail after being arrested and charged with murder, appears to be heading for oblivion.

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People may seek an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Scott's death, but District government officials seem to consider the case closed.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald announced that Scott had died from an "unusual reaction" to anti-tetanus serum given him "as prophylactic treatment" for injuries suffered before he was arrested.

Scott was arrested 10 days ago.

CHARGES BIAS IN SING SING

The Times
New York, N.Y.

Powell Says Grant, Opponent, Permits Color Line in Prison

Charging debasement of Negro prisoners in Sing Sing, Representative Adam Clayton Power Jr. told a Harlem audience of 1,000 yesterday that he seeks "equal rights for Negroes in every category of American life."

Mon.

Campaigning for re-election on the Democratic and American Labor party tickets, Mr. Powell said his Republican opponent in the Twenty-second District, State Correction Commissioner Grant Reynolds, permitted discrimination against Negro prisoners.

11-4-46

Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr., Communist candidate for State Attorney General, also spoke at the rally, held in Golden Gate Ballroom by the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport (L. I.). Mr. Davis said Governor Dewey prevented "peaceful picketing" with "police terrorism" when the Governor spoke Saturday night in the ballroom.

Beating Of Prisoner Probes Of S. C. Prison

Pittsburgh Courier
Sat. 11-30-46

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP) — A Federal probe into the reported beating of a Saluda County prisoner by County and State officers was reported under way by County and State officers, driven several miles into the country and there beaten into Lighthouse and Informer here, to admitting the charge. He was later sentenced to four years on the chain gang.

The complaint filed with the department alleges that Leon Boyd, ago, said he had been advised by the Justice Department that the case was under study.

The whole contrivance weighed almost 24 pounds, and Gregory said it was impossible for a man to run while wearing it, besides being conspicuous. Before he called a cab to take him and a prisoner last Friday from the prisoners' cell in Courthouse and transport him securely to a South Carolina chain-gang.

Atlanta, Ga.

The prisoner was William Henry Harris, 18, of 108 Lock Street, Newark, N. J., was arrested last Wednesday at his home by Essex County detectives, charged with having escaped last March from a South Carolina road gang on which he was serving four years for armed robbery.

Thurs. 10-24-46

Sheriff Gregory had brought with him from South Carolina what he called an "Oregon boot." First, he fitted around Harris' ankle an iron ring. From this ring a U-shaped piece of steel ran down, under Harris' instep, and up the inside of his leg to rejoin the iron ring. Outside all this, other ring, of heavy brass, was

Harris, he said, served the first 140 days of his sentence in chains, and was made a trusty in March. He promptly escaped.

Relic Of Slave Days — Sheriff Shackles Prisoner

Daily World

NEWARK, N. J.—(NNPA)—A relic of slave-hunting days was used by Sheriff Ben T. Gregory, of Chester, South Carolina, to remove

16h 1946

Alabama

Officer Is Cleared In Negro's Slaying

Montgomery, Ala.
Advertiser

BESSEMER, ALA., Feb. 11.—(AP)—Solicitor Arthur Green, of the Bessemer Cutoff, said today that a finding of "justifiable homicide" has been returned following investigation of the fatal shooting of a recently-discharged Negro Marine here Friday night.

Solicitor Green said that the Negro, who he identified as Timothy Hood, Bessemer, was shot by Police Chief B. B. Fant, of nearby Brighton, when, as the officer attempted to arrest Hood following an altercation on a Bessemer-Birmingham streetcar, the Negro reached toward his hip pocket "as though to draw a gun."

2-12-46

The altercation, between the Negro and W. R. Weeks, Birmingham, conductor, began over the moving of a segregation marker at the rear of the car, Green added. During the altercation, the solicitor said, the conductor fired five shots at the Negro causing superficial wounds.

Chief Fant, who lives near where the incident occurred, rushed to the scene upon hearing the shots, Green said. When he found Weeks lying on the ground outside the streetcar, apparently wounded, Green added, the officer drew the conclusion that the conductor had been shot and that the Negro was armed.

Sergeant Exonerated in White GI's Death

Baltimore Md. AFRO American

OAKLAND, Calif.—A Fort Mason Army court-martial last week found S/Sgt. Randolph Crawford, 32, of Dallas, Tex., not guilty of manslaughter in connection with the death of Sgt. Woodrow Wilson, 20, white, Champaign, Ill., on a Pittsburg, Calif., bus on Apr. 4.

Sat. 12-21-46

The ten-man court deliberated only 20 minutes before absolving Crawford, who was serving as a military policeman on the bus bound for Camp Stoneman. The white soldier, a passenger, was killed when Crawford's pistol discharged accidentally while struggling with another passenger who pulled a knife.

Los Angeles Man Freed Of Charges

Defender Chicago, Ill.

LOS ANGELES—Grady A. Neal, 21, arrested several weeks ago on suspicion of violating the state narcotic code, was at liberty and freed of charges when he appeared last Thursday with counsel in Superior Court.

Sat. 12-21-46

Atty. Everette M. Porter, of the law firm of Walter L. Gordon Jr., and Associates, succeeded in breaking down the state's case against Neal after stiff arguments. Neal was arrested last Sept. 22 by Officers Lynn and Harvey in the Fifth st. area.

The officers at the preliminary hearing testified they found marihuana in the man's possession. Neal was represented by public defender at the preliminary trial. Judge Gates dismissed the charges.

16h 1946 Florida

Says Case Didn't Merit Manslaughter Charge

Memphis World, Tenn

MIAMI, FLA.—(SNS)—

A first degree murder charge against Eunice Nickols, male Negro was nolle prossed today by Circuit Judge Richard H. Hunt, on motion of Assistant State's Attorney S. O. Carson, with the assertion that the indictment should never have been returned. 1-22-46

Judge Hunt also quashed the indictment returned by a grand jury during the term of Circuit Court Judge Stanley Milledge as state's attorney.

"We have a situation here where a former grand jury has returned an indictment for murder in the first degree against this defendant,," said Judge Hunt," although the evidence will not support a charge of second or third degree murder, or even manslaughter."

Asked by Judge Hunt if he could explain why a state attorney would ask a grand jury to return an indictment for murder with no evidence to support it, Carson said 'I cannot, your honor."1-22-46

Nickols claimed self defense in the fatal stabbing on Sept. 9, 1944 of Lucious Davis, another Negro.

Judge Hunt took his unusual action after examination of the records of the case presented in court. A special venire of 60 men had been called from which to select a 12-man jury to try the Negro.

Pointing out that each of them must be paid $3 for their service, Judge Hunt said the tax payers' money had been wasted by the "error of a former grand jury."

White Atlanta Slayers Freed

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

ATLANTA — (ANP)—Efforts to secure indictments against T. H. Purl, street car motorman, and Arthur Friedberg, railway mail clerk, both white, in connection with the slaying of Madison Harris and Phinizie Summereur, Negro youths, failed last week when the Fulton County Grand Jury returned "no bills" favoring the accused. 5-18-46

Summereur was killed last Fall as he was leaving the Pine Forrest bus. Friedberg was released on copy and later bound over to the January-February grand jury which failed to indict on the murder charge. The white man claimed the Negro cursed at him and shot him as he was leaving the bus.

Harris, veteran of World War II, was slain April 10 on Mitchell Street, his motorman-slayer being released on copy and freed at Recorder's Court hearing when Judge A. W. Callaway ruled it a case of "justifiable homicide."

Again! And Again! And Again!

Georgia Power Motorman Freed In Negro Slaying

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Thurs. 10-17-46

W. D. Lee, 22-year-old Georgia Power Company motorman, of 883 Argonne Street, N. E. was exonerated in Recorders Court, Wednesday, in connection with the slaying of Walter Lee Johnson, 22 year old veteran, of 420 Rock St., Nnrthwest.

In dismissing the case as "justifiable homicide," Judge A. W. Callaway said: "I don't believe this man got off the car with intent of committing murder. I think he went out to remonstrate with him. This man had no idea of committing murder. No jury on earth would convict him, so I am going to dismiss the case, he stated emphatically.

GRAND JURY CASE

In his argument to Judge Callaway, Attorney A. T. Walden, representing the family of the deceased veteran on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asserted: "This court is not called on to determine the guilt or innocence of this man. It is within the province of the Grand Jury to pass on the testimony.

After making reference to the conflicting testimony of the eye-witnesses, Attorney Walden explained that it was the legal duty of the Records Court to pass the case to a higher court. "It is not for this court to believe one set of witnesses, in preference to the others. That is for the jury to decide," he continued.

MOTORMAN GOT OFF CAR

While the testimony was conflicting on a few angles, it was definitely established that the Georgia Power motorman got off his car. In his argument, Attorney Walden referred to the legislative measure, giving motorman "police power." "According to the law, the operators have police power while on the car or while at the end of the line," he stated. "Since he was on the car, going to town, he didn't have to stop and get off."

All of the witnesses testified that the street car stopped to put off a passenger and had started off and turned off of Simpson Street on Gray, headed for downtown. The majority of the witnesses stated that the deceased veteran was standing on the sidewalk, when the motorman got off the car and [illegible] or any kind of deadly weapon. The majority stated hat he had his hands at his side. H. G. Potts, white, who operates a fruit stand near the corner of Simpson and Gray Streets, and W. C. James of 67 Ethridge Drive, N. W. a passenger on the car, claimed that the deceased had his hands in his pockets, at the time he was shot. Lula Sims, a colored woman said she heard the veteran curse the motorman and later grabbed him.

PISTOL JAMMED

Several witnesses stated that the motorman started to shoot the veteran again, but did not do so because Miss Harriet Ponder, cousin of the veteran, who was talking with him on the sidewalk just before the shooting, screamed, "Lord have mercy, don't shoot him anymore." In his statement to Judge Callaway, however, the defendant said that the reason he did not shoot again his pistol jammed. Daily World

It was also brought out during the lengthy hearings, that immediately after the shooting, several white men from business places in the neighborhood came on the scene with their pistols in hand. As friends were carrying the veteran down the street, a few of these men followed them and told them to bring him back. Atlanta, Ga.

LAUGH AT WITNESSES

The Georgia Power Company motorman, who was seen operating a street car on the West Fair line, Sunday, did not wear his uniform to court. He was attired in brown trousers and wore a light brown sweater. He did not appear to be worried about the outcome of the trial. The fact is, he laughed several times, while the witnesses for the prosecution were being cross-examined. Thurs. 10-17-46

Several representatives of Georgia Power Company attended the hearings including a few street car operators. T. H. Purl, the motorman who was on trial a few months ago in connection with the slaying of Madison Harris, was an interested spectator. He was standing with the operators, but did not have on a uniform. It was recalled, Wednesday, that after Purl had been exonerated in connection with the slaying of Harris, who was also a veteran, one of the Georgia Power Company operators remarked "Now, I guess they see where we stand."

LOOKING AT EACH OTHER

James Marshall without a doubt, the coolest and most convincing witness to take the stand, told Judge Callaway that during the scuffle, he saw the deceased vetran's hand come across the motorman's shoulder, and added that the Georgia Power operator shoved the victim away and the scuffle was over. "The motorman had his back to me, so I did not see the gun, but at the time of the shooting, the two men were standing, Looking at each other," he stated.

Not a single witness testified that the deceased veteran had a knife,

16h 1946 Illinois

Says Torch Was Used To Make Him Admit Murder Charge In Mississippi

The Argus Saint Louis, Mo.
Fri 6 Sat. 12-13-46

(ANP). Costell Jones, 37-year-old porter in a downtown restaurant, won freedom from a life sentence in Mississippi state prison at Parchman after telling a graphic tale before Federal Judge Elwyn R. Shaw here Wednesday of being beaten with a hose and blackjacks and burned with a blow torch to force him to admit a murder he did not commit.

Jones appeared before Judge Shaw on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus to void a Mississippi fugitive warrant on which he was arrested last August. Substantiating his story by stripping to the waist and revealing livid scars on his body received from blackjacks and a hose, and burns on his chest from a blow torch, Jones said he escaped the Mississippi prison in November, 1941.

India Jury Acquits Negro Gob In Slaying Of White American

Chicago Defender, 1 Lb.

2-9-46

NAGPUR, India.—A jury of seven Indians and two Europeans agreed without dissension in the high court of Calcutta that a Negro seaman was not guilty in the murder of a white American.

Acquitted of a charge of murder is H. Bennett, 27-year-old Negro merchant sailor, who pleaded self-defense in connection with the slaying of a white sailor and causing injury to another.

Bennett said in his defense statement that he knocked down a white sailor outside Calcutta's U.S. Seamen's club in a fight which arose out of the white man's repeated passing of remarks:

"Look at that Negro with gold braid on his hat." 2-9-46

Bennett declared he was struck on the back of his head with a knife and fell to the ground unconscious.

Later he went into the club, and according to the prosecution, is alleged to have stabbed one white American with his knife and injured another. 2-9-46

Bennett asserted he did not remember what happened, adding: "I got inside the club; they kicked hell out of me." He said he was the only colored man in the club at the time.

Last Negro in riot trials freed

Los Angeles Cal Tribune

DETROIT—Aaron Fox, one of the last two still held for involvement in the 1943 race riots here, has been acquitted, it was learned this week.

Of the 100 arrested after the riots, all but Fox, a Negro, and Aldo Trani, an Italian, were released by this Spring. Fox, for second-degree murder in the stoning to death of an Italian physician, and Trani, for the manslaughter of a Negro, were sentenced to jail from 7½ to 25 years and five-and-a-half to 15 years, respectively. Both were 15 at the time of the riot.

Fox' release is credited to two police-court reporters, Marguerite Gahagan, of the News, a member of the Catholic Women's Interracial Council, and Frances D'-Hondt, of the Times, who have consistently crusaded for new hearings for the two boys.

During Fox' first trial, he denied the charges against him and claimed that two witnesses, a Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, could testify as to his innocence. In his second hearing, the couple's testimony brought an acquittal verdict in 15 minutes, and the presiding judge, Joseph Gillis, preferred charges against Dectective Lt. Charles Buckholdt, for dilatory tactics and willful negligence in his failure to produce the Johnsons for the first trial. 5-25-46 S[redacted].

The father of Aldo Trani also appeared as a witness for Fox, while Fox' mother appeared on behalf of Trani. A conference of Negro ministers is supporting the demand for a new trial for Trani

16h 1946

Mississippi

Freedom Granted lo Miss. Fugitive

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

CHICAGO (ANP)—Stunned by the tale of brutality practiced against accused persons in Mississippi, Federal Judge Elwyn R. Shaw, Dec. 4, granted freedom from a life sentence at the Mississippi State Prison at Parchman, to a fugitive from there. Sat. 12-14-46

The man, whose story of being beaten with a hose and blackjacks and burned with a blowtorch to get him to admit a murder he did not commit won him freedom, was Costell Jones, 37, a porter in a downtown restaurant here. The Afro-American

Scars Mute Testimony

Substantiating his story by stripping to the wast and revealing livid scars on his body received from blackjacks and a hose, and burns on his chest from a blowtorch, Jones said he escaped the Mississippi prison in November, 1941, at the hearing on a habeas corpus petition. Baltimore, Md.

Jones further testified in his successful effort to void the fugitive warrant on which he was arrested here, last August, that during his brief trail for murder in Mississippi, he was not allowed to testify in his own behalf nor to produce any witnesses. Sat 12-14-46

16h 1946 New York

Jury Acquits Hoodlum Gang In Death of Bronx Schoolboy

Amsterdam News New York

2-16-46

Indicted by the Bronx County Grand Jury last March on a charge of inciting to riot, growing out of a gang fight which resulted in the death of a 18-year-old schoolboy, eight youths were acquitted last Thursday in Bronx County Court after brief deliberation by the jury before whom they were tried.

The youths, Robert Santana, 16 700 E. 158th St.; Joseph Granada, 17, 765 Forest Ave.; Edward Rodriquez, 16, 700 E. 158th St.; William Comulada, 17, 700 Westchester Ave.; Jack Ricotta, 17, 807 Cauldwell Ave.; George Gialafos, 20, 702 Trinity Ave.; Charles Rodriquez, 17, 629 E. 136th St.; and Joseph Mercurio, 17, 808 Jackson Ave., all alleged members of the "Jackson Knights," a hoodlum gang, engaged in a shooting battle with a rival gang, the "Slicksters," in the vicinity of 158th St. and Trinity Ave. last March. Jessie Richardson, a passerby, was hit by a bullet allegedly fired from a gun held in the hands of the Mercurio boy and died instantly. Mercurio was indicted and tried recently on a manslaughter charge, but was acquitted after a trial lasting several days and despite testimony by ballistics experts that the bullet found in the body of Richardson was fired from a gun which Mercurio admittedly owned, and that Mercurio had taken part in the affray. 2-16-46

Testimony adduced at the trial of the eight boys tended to establish that the Slicksters gang had come into the area of the Jackson Knights with the intent to do them bodily harm and that they simply defended themselves against this attack. The State failed in its vigorous attempt to prove that the accused defendants did, by their riotous assembly, incite to riot.

Report of the fact was contained in a letter received by Franklin H. Williams, NAACP attorney, thanking the organization for its successful efforts to obtain his freedom. 9-21-46

Condemned GI Freed Through NAACP Aid

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK — A sentence of death for rape, pronounced upon Eugene R. Lewis of the 3496th Quartermaster Truck Company by an Army court martial was voided ecently through a letter written to the Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations by the NAACP.

Lewis appealed for help from Germany after being sentenced. The NAACP's letter pointed out to the general that two other soldiers tried for the same crime on substantially the same set of facts were acquitted. 2-23-46

Sentenced to 50 Years, GI Freed by Government

Chicago American Baltimore, Md. Sat.

NEW YORK—Noel W. Greenidge, sentenced to 50 years of hard labor by a prejudiced Army court martial, has had his period of confinement entirely remitted through the efforts of the NAACP, it was revealed, here, last week.

Girl, 15, Free From Prison

Journal-Guide 3-23-46

9th Grade Student Refused By State Prison; Paroled

Norfolk, Va.

By ALBERT L. HINTON

WILSON, N. C. — A 15-year-old girl, who had to suffer the humiliation of being taken to the state prison because she chose to defend herself against an assault by a white woman theatre cashier, walked out of jail to freedom here Monday with a parole signed by Governor R. Gregg Cherry and State Parole Commissioner Hathaway Cross. Norfolk, Va.

The girl, Marie Everette, whose sensational case constituted a **cause celebre** here for several weeks, was thus given an opportunity to resume her schooling which was interrupted in the ninth grade, although she is still technically in the custody of the Wilson County superintendent of public welfare and will have to report to him regularly each month.

Moving swiftly to a climax Monday, the case of the girl who had been ordered committed to the North Carolina Women's Prison following her conviction at the February term of Wilson County Superior Court, may result in the organization of a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, among other things.

Inspiration for this development came in the wake of charges that at least one witness testified at the girl's hearing to the effect that, "the war is over now and we're not going to have these Negroes running all over white people," and the additional fact that the girl despite her age was actually ordered committed to the North Carolina Women's Prison but was refused admittance, and a provision of North Carolina law which says that no person under eighteen years of age may be admitted to the state prison for conviction of a misdemeanor.

Miss Everette owes her freedom to the intervention in the case of M. Hugh Thompson, Durham attorney, and the fact that Judge W. C. Harris of Wilson County Superior Court, Sheriff W. A. Weathersby, and Solicitor George M. Fountain, who prosecuted the case, all joined in recommending the parole. Sat. 3-23-46

A letter from State Commissioner of Paroles Hathaway Cross to Sheriff Weathersby inquired as to the sentiment in Wilson about the case. When Mr. Cross was informed by Sheriff Weathersby that there was overwhelming sentiment in favor of releasing the girl so that she could resume her education, the state parole commissioner moved swiftly to bring this about.

DRAMATIC CHAIN OF EVENTS

But the dramatic chain of events which provoked the case resulted in arousing the 10,000 colored residents of this "world's largest bright leaf tobacco market," as well as well-meaning whites to a degree of concern which has never been evidenced before.

While Miss Everette was originally convicted in Recorder's Court of a charge of "assault inflicting serious bodily harm," and was fined $50 and costs and sentenced to four months in jail, all of the evidence pointed conclusively the fact that the white woman theatre cashier whom she was accused of assaulting, was the aggressor in the fight.

THIS IS THE STORY

This is the story as told to this reporter by eyewitnesses and other persons interested in the case:

The incident occurred at the White Carolina Theatre on Tarboro street, which reserves its Jim Crow balcony for Wilson's colored citizens. To attract this patronage the theatre employs colored cashiers, ushers, and other attendants, and its revenue from this source is said to have been unusually heavy prior to the Everette case.

On the day in question, the Everette girl and a friend were in the white foyer of the theatre where a popcorn machine is located. The latter was standing in line to buy popcorn, while Miss Everette was not. The theatre cashier ordered Miss Everette in line and the latter told her she did not have to get in line since her friend was buying the popcorn, and "stuck out her tongue" at the cashier.

With this, the cashier rushed out of her ticket box, grabbed the girl and began to choke and slap her. Miss Everette retaliated by kicking the woman and otherwise trying to protect herself, and in the ensuing scuffle, which was said to have been broken up by a colored soldier and other bystanders, the police were summoned.

NO CHARGES PLACED AGAINST CASHIER

The Everette girl was placed under arrest and charges placed against her, while the theatre cashier was not molested by the police.

At a subsequent Recorder's Court hearing the accused girl was convicted of a misdemeanor, fined $50 and costs and sentenced to four months in jail. Interested persons noted an appeal to the Wilson County Superior Court, and following a hearing there before a jury, she was again convicted and the jail sentence increased to six months. Sentence was imposed by Judge C. W. Harris.

A Wilson County female deputy sheriff told the Journal and Guide on Monday just before the girl was released, that she was assigned to take the girl to Raleigh, but told her prisoner while enroute, that she was sure she would be coming right back to Wilson.

This official said that Sheriff Weathersby was very much concerned about the case as were also other influential white residents of Wilson, and had taken a personal interest in the girl's predicament. Sat. 3-23-46

Since the Everette incident, the management of the Carolina Theatre has installed a popcorn machine in the colored foyer, but colored patronage for both the machine and the theatre proper has dropped off to a mere trickle, informed persons say, and this is confined largely to persons from the rural sections. In addition, the theatre management is making plans to remodel and reopen the Lyric Theatre on lower Nash street in the colored business district which it has owned for several years but kept closed for business reasons.

COLORED THEATRE PATRONAGE FALLS OFF

Early Monday afternoon there was a long line of colored patrons seeking admittance to the only other white theatre in the city catering to colored patrons, while colored attendants at the Carolina Theatre, were for the most part, idle.

Because of the Everette case influential colored citizens of Wilson have expressed the belief that a local chapter of the NAACP would be desirable and have intimated that steps may be taken to take such action. Among the organizations which took an interest in the case was the Wilson Youth Council of which Hartford Bess is president. Sat. 3-23-46

The case was also brought to the attention of Judge William H. Hastie, of Washington, D. C., governor-elect of the Virgin Islands, and a member of the NAACP legal staff.

16h 1946

South Carolina

POLICE CHIEF FREED IN NEGRO BEATING

The Times

Federal Court Jury Acquits South Carolina Officer After Blind Veteran Accuses Him

New York, N.Y.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 5 (AP)—A Federal Court jury tonight found the Batesburg police chief, Lynwood L. Shull, innocent of charges of violating, by beating and torturing, the civil rights of a Negro war veteran.

Out less than half an hour, the jury's verdict was delivered to a courtroom of more than 300 spectators, half of them Negroes, who had sat out the day-long trial.

Isaac Woodard Jr., the Negro war veteran of New York City, testified that Chief Shull beat him blind in arresting him last February 12.

Wed. 11-6-46

Shull denied the charges of violating the Negro's civil rights and said he struck Woodard only once in self-defense, as they struggled for possession of his blackjack.

Woodard was riding a bus from Augusta, Ga., to Winnsboro, S. C., and the bus driver, who said Woodard was drunk and noisy, called Shull when the bus reached Batesburg.

The Negro said that when he replied "yes" to a question of whether he had been discharged from the Army, the arresting officer struck him with the club and said: "You don't say 'yes' to me; you say 'yes, sir.'"

Woodard denied he had been drinking, was unruly or used offensive language. He said he was unable to see after spending the night in jail. Three doctors testified they found Woodard's right eye cornea broken and the eye blinded, and hemorrhages in both eyes.

16i 1946

Negro Sought For Injuring Mrs. Oster, 63

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Jun. 12-8-46

Woman Escapes In Leap From Home Window; Police Spread Dragnet

Police early this morning were spreading a dragnet for a young to middle-aged Negro man who, about 9 o'clock last night, broke into an apartment at 101 Thorn Place and, according to Chief of Detectives Lewis Miller, injured Mrs. Bertha Oster, 63, after she had refused his demands for money.

According to police reports Mrs. Oster, believed to have been alone in the apartment at the time, left a chair in the livingroom to investigate a noise in an adjoining room. As she stepped through the doorway the Negro was said to have accosted her, demanding money, and then to have torn at her clothing when she refused.

Chief Miller said he had been informed by Detectives E. Y. Lacy and W. Campbell, who were assigned to the case, that Mrs. Oster jumped through a window and ran to a neighboring apartment, where a party was in progress, for safety.

The assailant, whose full description was not immediately learned, entered the building through a window, after cutting through a screen.

When informed of the incident neighbors of Mrs. Oster made a tentative search for the Negro and summoned police.

Mrs. Oster was taken to St. Margaret's Hospital where it was said that she was suffering from bruises and, apparently, from shock. Dr. H. Leon Rosen, understood to have been summoned to give Mrs. Olster medical aid, was questioned, by telephone, last night regarding her condition. He said: "I have no comment to make."

Screens in one or two other homes, in the same area, were cut last night in apparent burglary attempts. Chief Miller listed one as the home of Jesse Williams, 710 Park Avenue. It was regarded as likely that the same Negro was responsible.

Another Negro, James D. Marks, recently was sentenced to a 20-year penitentiary term on a charge of beating Mrs. Cecil Perry at her home near Cramton Bowl early in November.

Judge Eugene Carter further sentenced Marks to four additional years' imprisonment on two charges of grand larceny, to which the Negro previously had pleaded guilty.

Storekeeper Attacked And Beaten At Waugh

Montgomery, Ala. The Montgomery Advertiser

The sheriff's department early this morning was investigating a report that Perry E. King, 46, had been held up and robbed of about $15 by two Negro men at his store in Waugh, south of Montgomery. King was reported to have been beaten, and slightly injured, by the holdup men. He was brought to St. Margaret's Hospital for treatment. 1-29-46

Negro Lodge Guard Holds Door Though Gun Is Password

The Montgomery, Ala. News

Sticking to his post of duty, even under fire, kept unwanted visitors from entering the lodge meeting of the Negro employes of the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company last night, but resulted in hospitalization of the "outer guard."

2-13-46

According to police reports, Arthur Howard, Negro, 1221 Lecambia Street, was appointed doorman for the lodge meeting with special instructions to keep all "outsiders" out while the election of officers was going on.

A short time later, according to police, Clifford Thomas, Negro, of 559 South Fifth Street, decided to pay a visit to the lodge which was in the habit of allowing community members to attend the meetings, and upon being refused admission by Howard, pulled a gun and shot Howard in the head.

Howard's condition was reported as "fair" by Jefferson Hosptial attaches this morning.

Federal Probe Awaited In Mobile Beating

Chicago Defender Sat. 3-18-46

MOBILE, ALA.—Nazi-like police assault upon a 74-year-old Negro citizen here may touch off a federal probe of this Klan ruled area.

Suffering a fractured skull, fractured jaw and other injuries is retired contractor Napoleon Rivers, violently attacked at the board of registrars' office by Police Officer Edward Bartlett.

Investigation of the "Mobile system of protection" by the Department of Justice and governor of Georgia has been demanded.

The local police department technically holds Rivers in custody for "resisting arrest" and "disorderly conduct." He is confined to City Hospital. Sat 3-18-46

Eye-witnesses have offered sworn statements that the officer's attack upon Rivers was unprovoked and represented the usual Negro-hating attitude common to policemen here.

Rivers had gone to the registrars' office to vouch for several Negro veterans attempting to register as voters.

Negroes Are Held For Attacking Officer

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Three Negro men who allegedly attacked and wounded H. F. Leverette, Brundidge, Ala., police chief about 10:15 last night, were arrested slightly more than an hour later on Highway 231, near the Union Springs cut-off, by Highway Patrolmen Wilson Golden and John Ellis. Also held was a Negro woman who accompanied them. Sun. 6-2-46

Deputy Sheriff W. S. Furlow, Brundidge, said the chief was beaten when he stopped the Negroes' car after receiving reports that it had forced several other machines off the highway. Leverette was said to have received severe lacerations and a possible fracture of one hand. The Negroes, listed as Alto McWilson, Richard Roberson, Eddie Roberson and Alberta Nixon, were reported armed with two pistols.

Negro Sought For Beating Woman Here

The Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser Wed. 11-6-46

Mrs. Cecil M. Perry, 56, Attacked In Her Home Overlooking Stadium

Bloodhounds Used

Assailant Is Identified As Youthful Yardman; Victim's Recovery Seen

(Pictures On Page 3)

An intensive eight-hour manhunt was halted temporarily at midnight last night after a Negro identified as J. D. Marks, 22, accused of severely beating Mrs. Cecil M. Perry, 56, in her home near Cramton Bowl at 10 a.m. yesterday, apparently had escaped from a several square mile area east of the city that had been combed by nearly 40 city, county and state officers and bloodhounds from Kilby prison.

Mrs. Perry, wife of a city engineering department employe, told Police Capt. W. M. Stanley this story from a hospital bed:

She was sitting in a chair when the Negro, mask over his face, entered her home and demanded $500. She refused, whereupon he advanced upon her and threatened her life.

Recognizing him as her former yardman, and the Negro for whom her husband had sworn out a burglary warrant last week, she called his name. He then removed the mask and, chasing her from room to room, severely beat her with a large stick.

Not until she used the ruse of telling the Negro that her husband was in the back yard, she added, did he cease his attack and flee from the home.

Mrs. Perry, although bleeding profusely, managed to get to a telephone in her bedroom and summon the police.

A search was instituted immediately in the area, without results, but was greatly intensified about 4 p.m., when police received a telephone "tip" that the Negro had been seen walking south along the Central of Georgia Railroad tracks under the Jefferson Street bridge.

The informant told police that he had followed the Negro to Cherry Street and that he probably could be located in the vicinity of Spruce Street, Oak Park.

Police caught sight of Marks at East Fifth and Anne Streets and gave pursuit. He eluded them, however, in a small woods, but later was reported seen near the Masonic Home.

Bloodhounds from Kilby Prison were put on this trail about 6 p.m., and, for six hours, followed the scent over a wide area in the Veteran Hospital - Lincoln Road-Atlanta Highway area.

Searchers went out as far as the Perry Hill Road and McLemore's Junction, Atlanta Highway.

Advertiser

Twice they heard what sounded like pistol fire, and later, shotgun fire, but officers were unable to determine its source.

At midnight, Chief of Detectives L. M. Miller called the manhunt off but said that efforts to capture the Negro would be resumed early this morning.

City Detectives R. L. Tillery and Mike Chisholm expressed the belief that the Negro had a double motive: revenge, and robbery. Mr. Perry, they said, had sworn out a warrant for the Negro, only a few days ago, charging him with taking a pair of boots and a gun from his home. Wed.

Early this morning hospital attendants said that Mrs. Perry's condition was "satisfactory." 11-6-46

The house in which Mrs. Perry lived was built originally as a home for the caretaker of Cramton Bowl. Montgomery, Ala.



Advertiser Photos—Albert Kraus

The Advertiser Wed. 11-6-46

BLOOD-SPATTERED WALLS AND FLOORS in the home of Mrs. Cecil M. Perry, 56, shown above, indicate the violence of the struggle between the woman and a youthful negro who, yesterday afternoon, beat her severely with a stick after he had entered the house and demanded money. She told police that he chased her from room to room and fled only after she had led him into believing that her husband was in the back yard. Bloodstains are shown, left, on wash basin; broken lamp which Mrs. Perry threw at her assailant is shown on floor, center; while more bloodstains are shown on door and, at right, on floor beneath telephone. Montgomery, Ala.

White Woman, Negro Charged With Assault

The Age-Herald Birmingham, Ala.

ATHENS, Ala., Aug. 29—A white woman and a Negro were under $300 bond each on assault charges today as the result of a neighborhood altercation Tuesday afternoon, authorities said.

Mrs. Jewell D. Young, 45, was said by officers to have shot the Negro, Celestine Sloss, 25, through the arm after Mrs. Young's son, Archie Young, 8, had been struck with a stick. Thurs. 8-29-46

Hearings are scheduled for Sept. 16 in Limestone County Court.

Two Matrons Slugged By Thin Negro Man In Woodlawn Section

The News Sat. 12-14-46 Birmingham, Ala.

A citywide manhunt for a slender Negro was under way today after

bery of Harvey McKinley Barton. Police Chief Fay Bolman said the pair are charged with assaulting Barton and robbing him of a watch, a silver dollar and some change. He was left unconscious Goodwin and Reinhardt were picked up later that night by Gadsden patrolmen.

Harvill was struck several on the forehead and around e near 59th Street and Sec- urt, North, as she was walk- ward her home with three groceries, purchased at a store.

e said a small billfold con- $15 was found in one of the

ported resting well this morning. Negro approach Detectives J. R. Phillips and J. curred within a half an hour and five blocks of each other, parently were done by the same Negro.

Mrs. Cantrell was slugged and the face near 64th Street and band was running to her aid. Cantrell told police he saw the

her over the her husand then fled dow

Mrs. Harv times on the

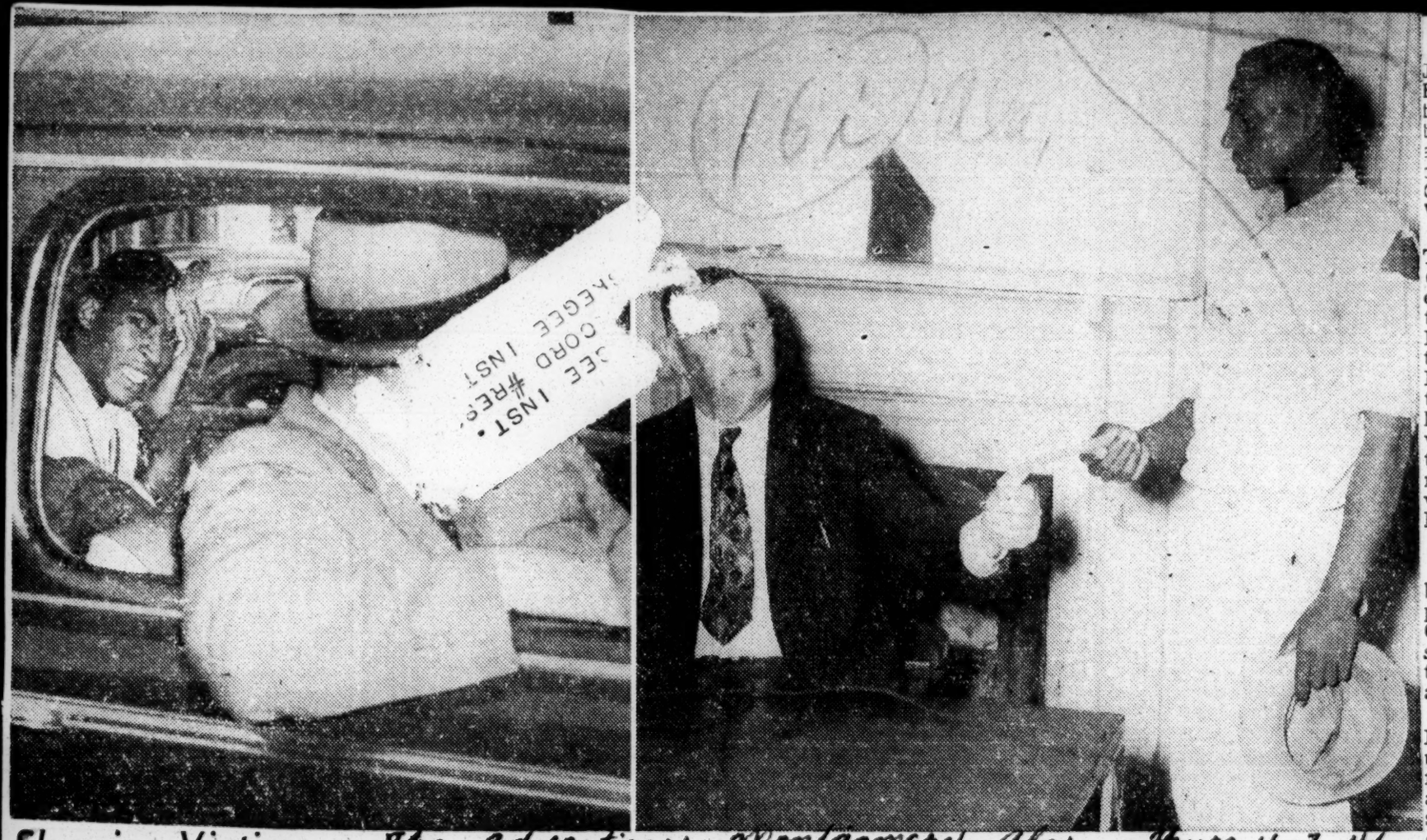
knocked to the ground by the Ne- gro shortly after she had alighted from a streetcar at First Avenue, and while

Soviet Army Paper Raps U. S., British Agreement

State Offers $200 For Negro In Attack Case

Montgomery, Ala.

intensive search for the offender.



Advertiser Photos—Albert Kraus.

JAMES D. MARKS, 22-year-old Negro who allegedly beat Mrs. Cecil M. Perry at her home near Cramton Bowl Tuesday, is shown in the rear seat of a police car shortly after his arrest yesterday. In the front seat are Detectives W. Campbell, arm on door, and O. M. Cobb, at wheel. Detective Mike Chisholm was in the seat with the prisoner. At far right Samie Thomas, Negro, who provided police with the tip that led to Marks' arrest, is shown receiving $150 reward check from Sheriff G. A. Mosley. The sheriff offered $100; Detective Chief Louis Miller, $50.

Slugging Victims In Serious Condition

Condition of two Woodlawn matrons remained serious Sunday in Jefferson Hospital, where they were taken Friday night after each had been beaten over the head by a Negro in Woodlawn.

Most seriously injured was Mrs. Dessa Harvill, 5926 Second Court, North, who was beaten over the head and face several times with a blunt instrument, believed to have been an automobile crank. The other victim was identified as Mrs. Thomas E. Cantrell, 6400 First Court, North, who also suffered head injuries.

A citywide police search was immediately pressed for a slim Negro, clad in an A[illegible] jacket, who witnesses said slug[illegible] both women —one in sight of h[illegible] husband.

Although police said robbery probably was the motive in each case, neither woman was robbed.

The attacks occurred within a half an hour of each other and about five blocks apart.

Mrs. Cantrell was slugged and knocked to the ground by the Negro shortly after she had alighted from a streetcar at 64th Street and First Avenue, and had started to a nearby store operated by her husband. Mr. Cantrell said he saw the Negro approach and strike her, and as he ran up, the Negro fled.

Two Negro girls told police they saw the Negro later strike Mrs. Harvill near 59th Street and Second Court, North. The Negro began singing and whistling, walked into a field, returned, dragged the victim into some bushes as if to hide, and then fled, the policemen were told.

Police said Mrs. Harvill was carrying three bundles of groceries, purchased at a nearby store. A billfold containing $15, in one of the bags, was untouched, and an automobile crank was found nearby, they declared.

About 10 police cars were rushed to the scene immediately after the attack was reported, and Detectives J. T. Howell and J. R. Phillips assigned to the case.

Negro Held On Charge Of Larceny And Assault

Olin Davis, Negro, yesterday was being held by police on charges of assault and battery and larceny in connection with an alleged shop-lifting attempt Saturday at Delchamp's Grocery, Madison Avenue, in which Alfred Gilliland, clerk, received knife wounds on one arm.

J. N. DeWitt, manager of the store, told police that Davis wounded Gilliland when he and John Pontin, also a clerk, attempted to hold the Negro for police investigation. Davis fled from the store but was caught, Gilliland received treatment at a hospital and was dismissed.

Negro Couple Helps Police Nab Attacker

James Marks Arrested, Identified As Man Who Beat Mrs. C. M. Perry

James D. Marks, Negro, 22, last night was being held in jail, awaiting action by the Montgomery County grand jury, as a result of the alleged beating, by him, of a 56-year-old white woman here Tuesday morning.

Solicitor Temple Seibels said that, if an indictment were returned by the grand jury, the Negro would probably be charged with assault with intent to murder.

The Negro's capture by Montgomery police yesterday morning followed a 24-hour search, over a considerable area, by a group composed of nine cars of policemen, four cars of State Highway Patrolmen, and five cars of Montgomery County sheriff's deputies. The arrest was made by Detective Chief Louis Miller and other members of his staff following a telephone call from a Negro servant at the home of Mrs. R. O. Blackwood, Wares Ferry Road.

Mrs. Cecil M. Perry, whose home overlooks Cramton Bowl, Montgomery's athletic stadium, identified Marks as the Negro who beat her with a 3-foot stick after he had slipped in through the rear door of the house. In naming her assailant, Mrs. Perry said Marks formerly had worked as yard man around her house.

Mrs. Perry, a patient at Hubbard Hospital since the beating, was "resting well" last night, attaches said. She had suffered severe head lacerations and body bruises as a result of the attack.

Leads To Arrest

Chief of Detectives Miller said the telephone call, which led to the arrest of Marks, came from Luticia Thomas, Negro, wife of 28-year-old Samie Thomas, Negro, while the Thomas couple was working at Mrs. Blackwood's residence.

For seven hours Tuesday night, bloodhounds from Kilby Prison and a large posse of men combed the countryside in the search for the alleged assailant. Marks later told the officers he saw the searchers and heard the dogs as he hid in a mule lot at Seth Johnson's home on the Atlanta Highway. The mules prevented the bloodhounds from going on through the lot, the officers added. Marks said he spent part of Tuesday night behind the Open Air Theater, east of the Veterans Administration Hospital.

After the Negro's capture, Thomas told Chief Miller that his (Thomas') wife became frightened when Marks appeared at the Blackwood home, and that Marks asked for $2 "to go to Wetumpka." After Thomas learned Marks' name, Thomas' wife called the police station. Thomas said he tricked him by "having him wait in my house while I pretended I was going to get the money for him. While I had him waiting, my wife called the police."

Faces Three Charges

Chief Miller said Marks was being held "on suspicion," until proper legal steps could be taken. Chief of Police Ralph B. King said the accused Negro also faced two warrants charging burglary and grand larceny.

After Marks' arrest, the accused Negro was said to have admitted under questioning by police officers, that he, wearing a mask and gloves and carrying a 3-foot stick, had entered the rear door of Mrs. Perry's home. He also was said to have admitted that he had on a pair of boots he had stolen from Mr. Perry, and he claimed he had gone to the Perry home to apologize for having committed the burglary on a previous occasion, Miller said.

The officers, who heard his unofficial confession, at about 1:30 p.m. yesterday, were Chief King, Chief Miller, Inspector J. R. Alford, and Detectives L. R. Tillery and M. S. Chisholm. Miller said Marks gave no clear reason for the allegd beating of Mrs. Perry.

Gets $150 Reward

As a result of the tip which led to Marks' arrest, Samie Thomas received a $100 reward from Sheriff G. A. Mosley and another amount for $50 from Chief of Detectives Miller.

16 i 1946

Arkansas

Arkansas Sheriff Holds Whites Who Attacked Negroes

The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City Okla.

JONESBORO, Ark. — (ANP) — Sheriff Leon Brown and Deputy Sheriff C. D. Wilson, after an investigation fo a francas between two men and a woman, all white, and a group of Negroes, charged the whites with attempt to kill and aggravated assult on the Negroes here Monday.

The whites, I. S. Thornsberry, 33, of Marrianna; Miss Louise Baskin, 26, of Forrest City, and Dewey Taylor, 29, of Marrianna, were driving a truck on Highway 1, south of here, when they encountered a car driven by John Bennett og Jonesboro who had five other colored people with him. They were returning from a funeral. Bennett said that Thornsberry repeatedly fired a pistol at them and finally stopped his truck across the highway, alighted and advanced upon the group with a pistol. He stuck the gun in Bennett's ribs and snapped the trigger several times. Bennett then struck the white man with a hatchet which he had in the car inflicting a deep gash. Sat. 8-17-46

Sherif Brown said he was convinced that the Negroes were telling the truth about the altercation. They were ordered freed, Thornsberry was kept in jail and the sheriff said he would prosecute the three whites.

Boys accused of outrageous acts against man

Tribune

An 18-year-old white transient was named by the district attorney's office this week as having robbed, beaten and committed outrages on Willie B. Haynes, a Negro, who lives at 4523 Lexington ave. Sat. 6-1-46

The suspect, Christopher Mitchell, is also charged with robbing a gasoline station at 6809 Camrose dr. Police say that Haynes picked up Mitchell while he was hitchhiking. Los Angeles, Calif.

Then, according to police, Mitchell and another lad, 16-years-old, pulled a gun on Haynes and forced him to drive them to his home. There they are accused of beating him and choking him with a telephone cord.

Then, after taking Haynes' money, they committed outrageous acts of sex perversion on his body, and fled, taking his 1937 Ford.

Bail was set at $10,000 on Mitchell. His companion, a juvenile, was not named in the complaint. The only formal charges against Mitchell are two counts of robbery, one of the gas station and one of a small amount taken from Haynes.

Why he has not been charged with assault with a deadly weapon and a morals count has not been revealed, but an investigation has been promised.

Trial of white who beat boy, 13, postponed

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 10-26-46

Trial of Richard Shepherd, 19-year-old white Venice youth charged with kidnapping and beating a 13-year-old Negro boy last Sept. 7 in imitation of southern race terrorists, was postponed this week until Nov. 12 to allow both sides opportunity to prepare additional evidence.

Shepherd is charged with being one of five other white hoodlums who set upon Clifton Alexander, who also lives in Venice, and after beating him, placed him in the rear of a car, drove him out of town and dumped him in a semi-conscious state on the highway.

Calif. Pastor Sues Flock Over Ejection

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Members of his flock are guilty of the social error of dragging him from his pulpit to the church door, all the while beating and kicking him, the Rev. Don C. Stephenson, pastor of the First Church of the Deliverance, charged in a suit for battery in Superior Court.

Only the arrival of the police at the door saved him from further annoyance, Stephenson says in his charges against six members of the congregation, asking $50,100 damages. What had aroused their wrath, he did not specify. Sat. 11-30-46

16i 1946

D. C.

Bellboy accuses Tenn. Representative of assaulting him

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Thirty-year-old Robert H. Jones, a Navy veteran of the Pacific and a night bellboy at the Fairfax hotel here, charged last week that he had been insulted and assaulted by Rep. Harold H. Earthman (D., Tenn.)

Police said both Jones and Earthman were taken to the station, charged with disorderly conduct, and released after posting five dollars each.

According to Earthman, he had returned from a revival meeting when Jones began an argument involving the parking of his car. However, Jones said the Congressman insulted and hit him first so that he had to hit back in self defense. He then ran down five flights of stairs into the hotel lobby, Jones said, Earthman following him by elevator and calling police from the lobby phone. "When they were slow in arresting me, he threatened to have the whole police department fired", the veteran added.

NEGRO WOMAN BADLY BEATEN LAST THURSDAY AFTERNOON BY WHITE STORE CLERKS AND PATRONS OF A MAIN STREET GROCERY STORE

The Tattler ——— Jacksonville, Fla.

It seems that that "We don't want your patronage, Negroes" attitude continues within the confines of some of the downtown stores. Sat. 10-19-46

It should be well understood by now that Negroes should trade within their respective localities.

Last Thursday afternoon in a Main Street grocery store a Negro woman was very badly beaten by the white clerks and patrons. The details at this time are not known by the Tattler, but will be published as soon as possible.

A few years ago the Wild Cat Chain Grocery Store was put out of business for an incident at one of its Broad and Church Street stores wherein a white clerk beat up a Negro woman and made her knock down a high stack of tomato cans. She received a broken jaw and a bruised eye.

If these sort of things continue to happen in white stores against Negroes, maybe some more stores will be forced to close and go out of business.

It is a known fact that Negroes are refused certain articles, but yet white patrons can purchase them. Several complaints have ben reported to the Tattler concerning the mistreatment of Negroes in xarious white stores. These complaints are being followed up and investigated.

Read the Tattler for latest news and happenings.

SOUTH JAX WHITE MAN BEATS NEGRO WOMAN AFTER GETTING OFF BUS

Jacksonville, Fla. The Tattler

Mrs. Beatrice Patterson of South Jacksonville and sister-in-law to Rev. H. W. Bartley of West 8th Street, was brutally beaten on the night of October 16, in South Jacksonville after getting off of a bus by a white man, who is Gerald Chancy of 1661 Emerson Street. Sat. 11-2-46

Mrs. Patterson is night maid at Cohen Stores and always catches the 1 A. M. bus for home.

Mrs. Patterson stated to the Tattler that when she got off the bus the white man got off and began walking fast behind her. He passed his house and kept on walking until he got in arm reach and then grabbed her by her left breast andbegan beating her unmercifully. She screamed, the white neighbors turned on lights and came to Mrs. Patterson's rescue.

Chancy is charged with assault and battery and has been bound over to the Criminal Court, according to Mrs. Patterson's statement.

Mrs. Patterson was given treatment and sent home. She is now recovering.

Girl, Escort Beaten on Lonely Road

Atlanta Constitution

A young Atlanta woman and her escort were severely beaten by a Negro assailant early yesterday morning in a wild struggle on a lonely dirt road in DeKalb County. Atlanta, Ga.

The victims, according to DeKalb County Police, identified themselves as Miss Sybil Mercer, 20, of 525 Rankin St., N. E., and Al Bentley, 28, of 957 Ponce de Leon Ave., N. E. 6-10-46

Following the attack on the couple, DeKalb County Police arrested three Negro men and a Negro woman living in a settlement at Washington Park.

Bentley told police that during the struggle the Negro threatened to kill him. Both he and Miss Mercer were treated at Grady Hospital, and then taken home. Both suffered lacerations of the face and head, loss of blood, and bruises of the body. Mercer

Miss Mercer told police she and Bentley were in his car parked in the moonlight on an unpaved road near Washington Park at about 3 a. m. She said they had been there about an hour when, becoming aware of the lateness of the hour, she dozed for a moment.

She said she was next awakened by a sound, and was horrified to see a Negro man beating Bentley about the head and face. The Negro opened the door, and dragged Bentley from the car.

The two men engaged in combat, struggling several feet from the automobile. Miss Mercer said she looked around the car for a weapon to defend herself and Bentley, and found a hammer on the floor of the vehicle. 6-10-46

She left the car, and, hammer in hand, went to the aid of Bentley, just at the moment Bentley broke away. As Bentley ran from the Negro, he shouted to her: "Get back to the car and go!"

The Negro pursued Bentley as Miss Mercer ran back to the automobile. She dropped the hammer in flight. She said she had difficulty trying to start the car. The Negro abandoned chasing Bentley and ran to the automobile. There he began to beat her, she said.

Miss Mercer managed to get out of the car and ran to the Lawrenceville Highway, near Scott Boulevard. She said she hailed a passing automobile, but the driver failed to halt. The Negro had not followed her. 6-10-46

The driver of the car who failed to halt for Miss Mercer, however, telephoned police. They hurried to the scene and found Miss Mercer. She was taken to the hospital. Bentley was traced to a house in Scottdale, where he had wandered in a daze. He, too, was taken to the hospital.

Bentley, semi-conscious, could not recall much of the affray, he said, beyond the fact that one point during the struggle he asked the Negro: "What do you want?" The Negro replied, "Money." Bentley told him, "I'll give you what I've got." Then the Negro said, "I'm going to kill you!"

Checking in the area, police learned a party had been in progress at the home of Jim Blackwell, 32, Negro. They reported drinking and gambling had been going on. Among those rounded up by police was a Negro named Frank Newton, 26.

He told police he left the party with a Negro named Eugene Fletcher, whose wife, Daisy Lou, 32, was also at the party. Newton said he and Fletcher recalled seeing the parked automobile on their way home. Atlanta Ga.

A cap identified as belonging to Fletcher was found at the scene, police said. He is being sought for questioning. Blackwell, Newton, Daisy Lou Fletcher and a Negro named Cape Morgan, were arrested as material witnesses. All were lodged in the DeKalb County Jail at Decatur. 6-10-46

Driver Beaten, Man Wounded In Bus Fight

Journal Courier Sat. 6-28-46

Racial Issue Causes Georgia Disturbance

Judge 6-28-46

Savannah, Ga., June 27 (AP)—A negro man was shot and wounded and a bus driver was beaten in a fight which allegedly grew out of a Negro woman's insistence on seating herself by a white man, Chatham County Police Sgt. Lee Ingram reported today.

Ingram identified the principals in the case as James Braxton, 25, Negro; J. R. Burton, bus driver, and Dorothy Bacon, Negro woman. Louisville Ky.

Woman Under Arrest

Burton was charged with assault and freed on $500 bond, Ingram said, while Braxton is in a hospital with leg wounds and the Negro woman is under arrest on charges of disorderly conduct, cursing and inciting to riot.

In addition, said the policeman, another Negro woman, identified by him as Ruby Glover, is being held as a material witness.

GA. WHITES WHO BEAT MAN REMAIN FREE

Wash. American

AUGUSTA, Ga.—No effort has been made to arrest the two white men, Grady Miller and Leroy, who beat Peter C. Calhouns, Wren, Ga. on April 25. Baltimore Sun

Negro Whipping Report Probed

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

SPARTA, Sept. 10—(AP)—Sheriff Bernard Butts, of Hancock County, said Tuesday he was investigating the reported whipping of a Negro taxi driver Saturday night on the highway between this city and Milledgeville by a group of white men. Wed. 9-11-46

The Sheriff said the Negro, Dave Dixon, was reported to have left town following the incident.

Sheriff Butts said he only had meager information upon which to work, but that he was making a careful investigation of the report. Cause of the flogging was not known, the sheriff said.

NEGRO BEATEN BY WHITE MEN

Cab Driver Attacked By a Band For Going With a White Woman.

SPARTA, Ga., Sept. 11 (AP)—Sheriff Bernard Butts of Hancock county said today that Dave Dixon, Negro cab driver, had been beaten by a band of white men because "he'd been going with a white woman."

However, the sheriff added, "I was out of town at the time and don't know much about it. In fact, there's so little to it that I haven't done anything about it."

The law enforcement officer said the white men, whose identities are unknown to him, "stopped the Negro on a road between here and Milledgeville and whipped him."

The Macon News, meanwhile, reported the Negro was being held in "another county for safekeeping." The newspaper also declared that Dixon "was badly whipped and was unable to talk because of injuries to his jaw."

Sheriff Butts said that he did not know whether Dixon was being held, saying that insofar as he was concerned, "I haven't got a case against him."

Georgia Posse Hunting In Swamp For Negro

The Times

WOODBINE, Ga., Dec. 16—(AP)—A dank, marshy area near here today gave at least temporary hiding to a young Negro man sought by more than 100 possemen after he robbed and threatened to kill a North Carolina white woman on her way to Florida.

Deputy Sheriff C. E. Ratliff said the motorist, Mrs. Martha Brown, about 45, of Pinehurst, was not harmed by the Negro who had forced his way into her car near Brunswick. Birmingham, Ala.

State highway patrolmen and county officers under Sheriff W. E. Smith directed formation of a posse. Mon. 12-16-46

Negro Eludes Police After Robbing Woman

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

WOODBINE, GA., Tues. Dec. 16.—(AP)—A Negro who robbed a Pinehurst, N. C., woman and threatened to kill her, eluded a sheriff's posse today in a marshy area.

Officers and the posse continued a search started last night after Mrs. Martha Brown, of Pinehurst, reported the Negro forced his way into her car when she stopped near Brunswick, Ga. He had his hand in a coat pocket, seemingly holding a gun. He ordered her to drive on and near Woodbine, directed that she turn down a side road. 12-17-46

Mrs. Brown said she stalled her automobile and attracted the attention of a passing motorist. The Negro fled, taking her pocketbook containing $225. The empty purse was found in woods through which the Negro fled.

The Pinehurst woman, en route to Daytona Beach, Fla., planned to remain here a few days pending outcome of the search for the Negro.

16i 1946

Hawaii

Honolulu Cops Face Trial for Gestapo-Like Tactics

Afro American Sat 4-6-46
Baltimore, Md.

By FLEMING R. WALLER

PEARL HARBOR, Honolulu.—Three white members of the police force here were suspended from their jobs Mar. 18 and face trial on charges of having brutally beaten a colored civilian worker in the civil jail on Mar. 10.

Ozett Lee, the man who obtained the warrant against them, with the help of the Honolulu NAACP, stated that he felt like a victim of the Gestapo, so barbarously had he been treated by the cops after they had arrested him on suspicion of gambling.

Cops Invade Barracks

Lee's story is that on the evening of Mar. 10, he went to a barracks where gambling was going on to pay a dollar debt for a friend of his.

He said he was immediately accosted by policemen who had sneaked into the building and carried to the Civil Police Station in area 3, with other men arrested for gambling.

Torture Chamber

Then he told of being hauled into a small, soundproof room, by three husky officers who followed him in and closed the door behind them.

The room on the Naval Reservation at Pearl Harbor, according to Lee, became a torture chamber as hideous as Dachau or Belsen, when used by the Nazis.

Beaten, Then Fined

It was here, he said, that he was kicked, beaten and bludgeoned until he fell to the floor, kicked and cursed until he rose again, and again knocked down and beaten until he was almost insensible.

Later, he was charged with gambling and fined $10. It was not until the following day that he obtained medical treatment.

A Honolulu ear specialist's certificate shows that he lost 44% of the hearing in his left ear and there is a possibility that this injury may be permanent.

Chief Denies Brutality

Lee, supported by the NAACP, swore out a warrant for the officers who beat him. They were identified as Vernon Price, James Robinson and Edward O'Toole, all white.

Sat 4-6-46

They were suspended from the force, last Monday, by Capt. K. C. Christian, base operations officer, and will have to face trial for the alleged mistreatment of Lee.

Chief of Police at Pearl Harbor, Merritt A. Mesch, said that he had never condoned, nor would ever condone, mistreatment of prisoners in the custody of civil service police.

He issued a special appeal to civilian workers asking that anyone having knowledge of police maltreatment of civilians report to him and promised to investigate the circumstances immediately.

Not First Instance

The Lee incident, however, is not the first which has occurred here since the war. Several reports of sadistic treatment of civilian workers at the hands of police have reached the NAACP. Many officers appointed here do not even know what the duties of police should be.

Lee, the torture victim himself, stated, "All this happened here where war first struck; here, where we are supposed to be living in a democracy, free from aggression and fear."

Retains Jap Lawyer

The NAACP has retained the services of a Japanese lawyer, George Y. Kobayaski, and according to its president, Fleming R. Waller, is going to fight for justice for Lee and to prevent recurrances of police abuse.

16i 1946 Illinois

GI Beaten Defender By Officer Chicago, Ill.

Captain Uses MP Stick For Assault

By HOWARD B. WOODS
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

SCOTT FIELD, Ill.—Evidences of the brutal beating of a Negro private by several U. S. Army officials and non-commissioned officers including a white captain from Arkansas, was revealed exclusively this week to the Chicago Defender.

According to reports Pvt. John L. Williams was beaten by Capt. John W. Sims with an MP club following a discussion over the signing of "some papers" in the Orderly Room of Squadron SB-13 on Tuesday, Aug. 6 about 4:15 p.m.

Pvt. Williams was being held last week in the area guard house without charges, pending "shipment to another station," according to Col. Bailey, executive officer of the Air Field base. The Defender also learned that Capt. Sims has been relieved of his command of the area in which the slugging took place and placed in another spot on the base. Sat

The Defender learned that Pvt. Williams was brought into the room for alleged insubordination. During the discussion he refused to sign "some papers" and asked to see the commanding officer, who at that time was Capt. Williams. At Williams command to "send that boy in here," S-Sgt. Wade is reported to have pushed the private through the door into Williams private office.

After the soldiers entered the office, the door is reported to have been closed and someone cried out, "that —— kicked me!"

Heard Scuffling 8-24-46

Those on the outside heard scuffling and what seemed to be blows being passed. The door finally opened and Pvt. Williams appeared ready to leave until someone pulled him back into the room. During this time, another soldier involved, M-Sgt. DeSantis, was hit by the door to the captain's office cutting a lengthy gash over one eye.

The men finally came out of the commanding officer's office and Pvt. Williams was told to stand at attention. According to reports, Pvt. Williams stood at attention, but moved his head dizzily as though recovering from the effects of the scuffling in the inner office.

As Williams moved his head, Sims took an MP club, held by one of the soldiers present and handed it to S-Sgt. Wade saying: "If he bats an eye, hit him and use as much force as you can. That is a direct order."

Williams swayed dizzily again and S-Sgt. Wade struck him with the stick, whereupon Capt. Sims took the stick from him and proceeded to swing wildly at the private. Williams went to the floor under the onslaught of blows that fell on every part of his body. According to witnesses, Williams raised his arms to defend his head and face, saying "go get the boys, they've got no right to do this to me." Defender

All Negroes Out

Following the beating which was witnessed by "about ten or twelve Negro soldiers" who had gathered and "dozens" who peered through the orderly room windows, Sims ordered all Negro personnel out of the room. Chicago, Ill.

A short while later Col. Neal Creighten, commanding officer of the base, arrived and was taken into Sims' office for a short conference. All the while Williams was lying on the floor. Col. Creighten is quoted as saying upon emerging from the office, "Williams, you're a bad boy. Get on your feet." Sat. 8-24-46

The private was arrested and led from the room his hands handcuffed behind him.

Later that evening, Capt. Sims entered the orderly room carrying a rifle exclaiming, "Do you see this, by God I want to use it." Still later the same evening, a meeting was held among the white officers and non-coms, excluding the Negro soldiers.

The Defender learned that five statements, carrying substantially the same information, have been filed by five enlisted men, with the Provost Marshall, Deputy Commander and Base Intelligence Officer.

Pvt. Davis Stays

Following the incident, all of the Negro personnel who formerly worked in the orderly room, were removed with the exception of one Pvt. Davis, who refused to make an affidavit concerning the affair. Pvt. Davis, who yet holds his orderly room position, is reported to have told investigating officers, he was not going to "stick his neck out."

Action Taken Defender In GI Beating Chicago, Ill.

White Officer Removed From Duty

Sat. 8-31-46

By HOWARD B. WOODS
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

SCOTT FIELD, Ill.—Following an investigation by members of the St. Louis branch of the NAACP the case of Capt. John W. Sims, white, who clubbed 17-year-old Pvt. John Williams of Chicago, in an orderly room here August 6, has been referred to General Lawrence of the Technical Training Command for "further action." Sims has been relieved of his command at the post.

Sims, who said he was 27 years old and weighed 175 pounds, was charged with giving a direct order to a white non-commissioned officer to hit Williams with a heavy MP club if he "moves his head." The Oklahoma captain was further charged with taking the club from the non-com and himself beating the Chicago soldier about the head and body.

Details of the brutal slugging were revealed exclusively in the Chicago Defender for the first time last week when Sims was identified as being from Arkansas.

Private Williams had been brought into the orderly room after he had been AWOL from a work detail and found loitering in an area post exchange.

White officers testified Williams struck at Captain Sims "without provocation" and threatened his life. Williams is then alleged to have strong armed four white officers and non-coms.

Sergeant Wade, who gave his weight as 200 pounds, but looked 30 pounds heavier, stated that the Oklahoma captain's orders were to knock Williams unconscious if he tried to "attack or escape." He said Williams looked from one door to another while at attention and he hit him on the head.

Sergeant Wade said Captain Sims then took the club . Sims stated he then struck the private knocking him to the floor as a free for all started with Sims, Williams and Wade.

Although Sims stated he thought Williams was under the influence of "some kind of dope" because Colonel Creighten said no charges had been preferred against Williams and that he had relieved Sims of his command. The commandant stated that as long as he remained C.O. of the base, Sims would command no [redacted] troops, white or colored.

Former Ill. Officer Sentenced for Beating

The Afro-American

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (ANP)—The first of three former deputy sheriffs prosecuted for beating a prisoner recently, Marion Booth, 53, white, was sentenced to 60 days in the county jail and fined $100. Baltimore, Md.

The other two, who have pleaded guilty, will be tried later. All three resigned when news of the beating leaked out. Sat. 10-12-46

Room On Walks For Both Races, Wetherby Says

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. Tues 5-14-46

"There's room on Louisville sidewalks for both colored and white children," Juvenile Court Trial Commissioner Lawrence Wetherby said yesterday.

Wetherby filed away an assault-and-battery charge against an 11-year-old Negro girl accused of striking a white girl of the same age on a downtown sidewalk several days ago. The Negro girl said the white girl "made some remarks about me."

The girls and their parents were cautioned by Wetherby that "both races are here to stay and you must work out a way to get along with each other."

Two Who Assaulted State Policeman Fined

The Courier Journal Louisville, Ky. Wed. 10-30-46

Frankfort, Ky., Oct. 29 (AP)—Two Negroes charged with assaulting a State highway patrolman here Saturday were fined $50 and $5 costs each today after their warrants were amended to breach of the peace.

The men, James R. Chambers, Louisville, and Maurice Bogle, Lancaster, were apprehended by the patrol after they attacked James Ed Yount, State patrolman. Yount, garbed in work clothes and off duty had stopped their touring car and reprimanded them for reckless driving.

On advice of Franklin County Judge Boone Hamilton, the two were taken to Lexington for safekeeping and placed in jail over the week end. Accompanied by three other men, they had come to Frankfort to attend a football game.

In recommending reduction of the charge, William A. Young, County attorney, said circumstances around the roadside affray might have caused a "degree of justification" for the attack, but the Negroes' action was "excessive."

All the evidence he had, Young said, would not sustain a charge of assault and battery. Through their attorney, A. E. Funk, Frankfort, Bogle and Chambers entered a plea of guilty to the amended charge. They did not testify.

Striking Negro On Tram Costs Soldier 30 Days

Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky. Fri. 8-2-46

An army corporal who beat a Negro woman on a crowded Fourth Street car after shouting, "I'm from the South," was fined $100 and sentenced to 30 days in jail in Police Court yesterday. A malicious-striking charge was amended to disorderly conduct.

The soldier, Alfred L. Smith, 23, Jonesboro, La., stationed at Fort Knox, objected violently when the woman, Mrs. Sadie Mae Elmore, 31, of 316 Gaulbert, a maid, entered the car at Fourth and Gaulbert July 17 and sat near the front.

Woman's Glasses Broken.

He struck the woman in the face with his fist, breaking her glasses, according to testimony.

The motorman, Woodworth L. Sparks, 1631-K Brashear Drive, said he attempted to quiet Smith several times before the altercation. When Smith began striking the woman he ordered passengers from the car and called police.

Mrs. Elmore, Sparks said, struck Smith on the head with the soldier's whisky bottle when he kicked her as she left the car. Smith was treated at General Hospital for severe head cut.

On the witness stand, Smith said he had been drinking most of the day and didn't remember anything after getting on the car.

"The first thing I remember about the night is waking up in the hospital," he said.

He also said he didn't remember calling the motorman a "damned Yankee." Fri 8-2-46

A malicious-striking charge placed against Mrs. Elmore at the time was filed away by Judge Homer C. McLellen.

Kentuckian Admits Beating 1; Is Quizzed About Fatal Attack

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky. Thurs. 11-21-46

Indianapolis, Nov. 20 (AP)—A husky, 22-year-old Negro arrested early today in his home here has confessed the Sunday night bludgeoning of Mrs. Edna Long, 20, mother of a 2-year-old child, Detective Chief Howard Sanders said.

The Negro, Samuel Lee Crawley, who gave his birthplace as Buffalo, Ky., was placed under $25,000 bond when taken into Municipal Court today on a cagrancy charge. Authorities said a more serious charge would be placed against him later.

Mrs. Long is in a serious condition in City Hospital.

Denies He Killed Nurse.

Sanders said Crawley had been questioned about the fatal clubbing on September 11 of Miss Alberta Green, a nurse at the Riley Hospital, but had denied implication in this crime.

At Crawley's court hearing Judge Joseph M. Howard asked Detective Sgt. Jack Bevan if Crawley had "anything to do with the slaying of the nurse."

"We don't know yet," Bevan replied.

Miss Green was beaten to death by a man who broke into the hospital. Another nurse who came to her aid also was beaten by the man and suffered serious injuries.

Had Sadistic Urge.

Detective Sergeants James Rogers and Spurgeon Davenport, who questioned Crawley, said he told them he had an "urge to hurt someone without knowing why."

Mrs. Long was beaten with a two-by-four plank shortly after leaving a bus near her West Side home Sunday night.

Beaten By 3 White Men

The Weekly
New Orleans, La

Sat. 9-14-46

For no apparent reason three white men viciously beat and cut Joseph Celestine, 21, of 3008 Dauneel St.

According to a police report, Celestine was waiting for a bus at the corner of N. Claiborne St. and Elysian Fields Ave., about 6:30 p. m. Saturday, after knocking off from work. A truck driven by his employer, Joseph Lucius, white of 1734 Spain St., drove up and three unidentified white men jumped out. They beat him and forced him into the truck. In the fracas Celestine received a serious cut on the arm. The men threw him from the truck in the 1800 block on St. Roch Ave.

Police said that Celestine could give no reason for the beating. He was taken to Charity Hospital, treated and released.

WIFE BEATER HELD IN DOCTOR'S INJURY

Courier-Journal
Age Herald Tues 5-14-46

HATTIESBURG, Miss., May 13—(AP)—A Negro identified by police as Sam L. Walker, 22, of Hattiesburg is being held here today in connection with injuries suffered by Dr. D. B. Stevenson, 72-year-old Lumberton physician, late Saturday in the Lumberton Hospital.

Police said the Negro went into the hospital, where his wife was a patient and was beating her when Dr. Stevenson interceded. The Negro seized Dr. Stevenson and slammed him against the hospital wall, breaking one of his legs and causing other injuries, police stated. Dr. Stevenson was taken to a Jackson hospital. Tues 5-14-46

The Negro fled and was arrested in Hattiesburg. He is being held on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill.

You still gotta say "sir" in Mississippi

Tribune
Sat 6-8-46

NEW ORLEANS La., Edward Jones Baptiste, 19, veteran of the China-Burma-India theatre, learned recently that, war for four freedoms or no, a Negro is still expected to say "sir" to Mississippi white folks.

Discharged at a California camp after 14 months in the CBI, Baptiste was recently carried home unconscious to his mother here by three Negro civilians.

It seems that he had to change trains at Hattiesburg and asked a ticket agent about the New Orleans train. The agent told him that it had already left. "I told him I wish I could have caught that train", Baptiste said. "He then asked me, 'Nigger, don't you know that you are in Mississippi, and when I told you that the train had left for New Orleans, you should have said, "Yes, sir"?' My only answer to him was that I was interested in but one thing, and that was to get home as soon as possible. The next thing I remembered was a hard blow on the side of my head." L.A. Cald

After telling his story at home, he collapsed again, and was taken to the Army Base hospital here, where he was found to be suffering from a blood clot on the brain, "caused by a blunt instrument." According to the three men who brought him home, a crowd of whites had gathered at the station to do him more harm, but they carried him away. 6-8-46

The Provost Marshal here has referred the case to Camp Shelby, Miss., from where an investigation is being made at Hattiesburg. The local NAACP is filing protests with the Army and the Justice dept.

2 Held In Mississippi In Flogging of Negroes

News & Courier Charleston SC.
Sat 6-29-46

Jackson, Miss., June 27 (AP)—Sheriff Henry Laird of Rankin County announced tonight the arrest of two white men in connection with the flogging Sunday night of a Negro couple at Brandon, the County seat. 6-27-46

The sheriff said the men, F. M. Floyd and Webb Neal, had been released on $300 bonds and would be tried next week. Jamesville

Laird said charges of assault and battery had been lodged against the two in connection with the beating of Matilda Pinkey and her husband, Frank Pinkey, as the couple was returning from church. 6-28-46 7c

Editor Reports Beating.

The beating was reported yesterday by Percy Green, Negro editor of The Jackson Advocate and spokesman here for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Sheriff Laird said there was no connection between the assault on the Negro man and woman and the reported flogging of Etoy Fletcher, Negro World War II veteran who told N.A.A.C.P. in an affidavit that he had been flogged June 12 after having attempted to register as a voter.

The Negro woman told Greer the men who beat her warned her they weren't going "to allow Negroes on the streets of Brandon after dark." 6-28-46

Negroes to Vote.

Fletcher was last seen at his room here Saturday morning shortly before N.A.A.C.P. revealed that it had received his report. He has ont been located since. Courier

Meanwhile authorities of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou announced that approximately 200 Negroes would vote Tuesday in the State Democratic primary for the first time in history.

A U. S. senator will be selected from four candidates, including the incumbent, Senator Theodore Bilbo, who is running on a platform which includes white supremacy. Jamesville 6-28-46

Church Woman In Mississippi Beaten By Men

New York Amsterdam News
New York N.Y.
Sat 7-6-46

BRANDON, Miss., (ANP) — Mrs. Matilda Pickney, long time resident of Rankin county, was in a critical condition early last week following an attack by four white men who administered a severe beating.

Mrs. Pickney, a prominent church worker, was returning from evening services when approached by the men who asked if she didn't know that Negroes in Rankin county weren't allowed on the street after dark.

Before she could answer, Mrs. Pickney was knocked down and beaten and kicked about the head and body. The woman sustained injuries that caused permanent injury to her eyes, one of which doctors fear will have to be removed immediately.

Mrs. Pickney, who is the daughter-in-law of Holly Shepheard, janitor at the Rankin county courthouse for the past 10 of 15 years, is expected to be moved to a hospital in Jackson as soon as her condition permits. Sat. 7-6-46

Beat Couple Walking The Streets After Dark

Tribune Savannah, Ga.
Thurs. 7-4-46

Brandon, Miss (ANP) — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pinkey, returning to their home after having attended Sunday night church services, were severely beaten by assailants who told them that "no Negroes would be allowed on the streets of Brandon after dark." Two white men, arrested as suspects, have been released on bonds of $300 each.

The men, identified by Sheriff Henry Laird of Rankin county as F. M. Floyd and Webb Neal, were charged with assault and battery. They were apprehended after Percy Green local editor and NAACP leader in this section, reported the beating to authorities.

Sheriff Laird said in Jackson Saturday there was no connection between the most recent assau't on Negroes and the flogging of Etoy Fletcher, World War II veteran, who reported to the NAACP that he had been beaten June 12 after attempting to register to vote.

Negro Porter Slugged, Shot in Mississippi

Daily Worker

By Harry Raymond

How a Negro porter, father of three children, was slugged behind the ear with a blackjack, then shot through the chest in Mississippi by a white Illinois Central Railroad conductor was revealed yesterday by Clarence Mitchell, labor secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People. New York, N.Y.

The porter, James Graves, after 11 days in a hospital survived to tell the tale in an affidavit. He is still under medical care. The NAACP has submitted his case to the Department of Justice with a demand for action. Sat 11-9-46

With the Graves case, the NAACP presented the Department of Justice the case of Albert Wooden, another Illinois Central porter, beaten earlier in Mississippi by another white conductor.

Graves, whose home is in Memphis, stated the incident took place on Sept. 25 after N. B. Kaigler, the conductor, argued with him about the seating of two Negro passengers bound for Memphis. They boarded the train at Merigold, Miss.

SLUGGED FROM BEHIND

According to Graves, Kaigler slugged him behind the ear with a blackjack after saying: "Can't you get those g-- d----- Negroes to come back here like I tell you."

The porter told how he grabbed his pistol and shot Graves through the other porter, and held the conductor's hand to the chest while waiting to give charged he was beaten by ward off further attacks. He said the "highball" signal, Graves Conductor Lark Purse on two white railroad employes charged. He further stated that on finally persuaded Kaigler to cease "I broke and ran north behind he narrowly avoided a the attack. the depot," Graves said, "as the beating when he tried to The train, meanwhile, arrived mail porter hollered, 'Keep run- an incident involving a at Mound Bayou, Miss. Graves ning because here he comes'." woman. alighted to assist departing pas- Seriously wounded, Graves sengers. The conductor, Graves managed to escape. He entered stated, ordered him to stay aboard a hospital, was discharged after conductor as saying.

11 days and is still under care of Later, in September, Wooden protested the segregation of a group of Negro clergymen. He said he was cornered in Memphis by the same conductor and a policeman. He said the railway claim agent at on Aug. 30 d a similar him with a blackjack while ed to report really Kaigler's affair, not the ten by ICRR policeman looken on "with his railroad's, but the company fige on Sept. 9 hand on his gun as if to shoot ured Graves needed the money. me." se damned quoted the While Mitchell was submitting the Graves and Wooden cases to

Police Judge Finds Drunk Charge Untrue

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat 1-5-46

Cop Who Beat Band Leader Has Long Anti-Negro Record

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Bruised and bandaged as a result of an off-duty policeman's beating when he attempted to enter a lily-white ballroom, Bandleader Cab Calloway was "freed' by a Kansas City judge last week.

The judge, Earle W. Frost, admonished the famous Hi-De-Ho maestro for not identifying himself to the policeman when he tried to gain entry to the Pla-Mor ballroom, where Lionel Hampton's orchestra was featured.

After the beating at the hands of the officer, the bandleader, along with a friend, Felix H. Payne Jr., was charged with intoxication and resisting arrest.

Wears Bandages

Calloway had been charged with intoxication, resisting an officer and creating a public disturbance following an affray Saturday night at the Pla-Mor ballroom from which Cab emerged with severe lacerations of the scalp and a broken bone on the little finger of his left hand.

He was hit over the head and on the hand by Officer William Todd, member of the regular police department who served during his off hours as a special officer at the Pla-Mor.

Calloway, who went to Chicago after the altercation, returned here Friday for the hearing with his finger in a cast. He still wore bandages on top of his head.

8 Witnesses Against Cab

The band leader of "hi de ho" fame was represented in the municipal court by Maurice J. O'Sullivan, Kansas City white attorney, and his associate, John J. Killiger, recently a captain in the army.

Cab's lawyer from New York, who was expected here for the hearing, did not arrive. He asked O'Sullivan to handle the case.

The hearing lasted two hours with eight witnesses appearing against Cab and Felix H. Payne Jr., Kansas City friend who was with him on the night of the fracas at the Pla-Mor, and five appearing on behalf of Cab.

Sat 1-5-46

Officer Todd, who a year ago was involved in another brutality incident in which he was accused of kicking a Negro youth while he lay on the ground, told the judge that both Calloway and Payne had been drinking and that Payne struck at him before he attacked the band leader.

No Liquor Breath

He admitted hitting him over the head several times. Other police officers and the manager and doorman at the Pla-Mor corroborated Todd's assertion that Cab and Payne had been drinking and that they were the aggressors in the fight.

Dr. Homer A. Harris, interne at General hospital who dressed Cab's wounds; Miss D. O. Brown, general duty nurse at the hospital; and Mrs. Mary Boston, nurses' aide all testified that they did not smell liquor on the breath of either Cab or Payne although they were within close range of them.

Both Calloway and Payne denied that they had had a drink that day or night. Payne said that the last time he had had a drink was in Calcutta, India, where he was a Red Cross club director.

He had just returned home a day before the altercation from Walter Reed hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

Dismisses Charges

Faced with conflicting evidence, Judge Frost said that the burden of proof was on the city and since the city had not proved that the men were intoxicated, he was dismissing the charge.

Of the resisting arrest charge, the judge said that there was no proper showing of an arrest having been made, so the second charge was dismissed.

On the third charge, which he said he considered the most serious, Judge Frost said that he felt the disturbance was the result of a misunderstanding which he said was the fault of Calloway and Payne.

He said that if they had identified themselves at the ticket window there would have been no trouble and the two men would have been admitted to the ballroom as visitors.

Hampton Walks Out

The judge said that there was nothing to be gained by fining Calloway and Payne, so he dismissed the third charge with the admonition that under similar circumstances in the future, they properly identify themselves to avoid a similar occurrence.

Cab and Payne went to the Pla-Mor at the invitation of Lionel Hampton whose band was playing a one night engagement there. Hearing of the attack on Cab, Hampton refused to continue the dance.

Sat 1-5-46

Witting, manager of the Pla-Mor, testified that had he known the identity of Calloway he would have escorted him to the ballroom and treated his as a distinguished guest.

He said that he asked Cab and Payne several times to identify themselves but that they said, "It doesn't matter what our names are. We are going in anyway."

Both Calloway and Payne asserted that Cab informed the manager and the officer from the beginning that "I am Cab Calloway," and showed identification and a badge given him by New Jersey police.

Calloway was unable to say after the hearing whether or not he would file a suit against the Pla-Mor and Officer Todd.

He left almost immediately for Chicago where his band is scheduled to open an engagement Jan. 1 at the Sherman hotel.

2 Women Suffer Injury When Vandals Attack

Defender Chicago Ill
Sat. 2-14-46

ST. LOUIS—Roy Immehus, operator of a west-bound street car on run 58 reported to Ninth District Police last Monday that when he brought his car to a halt at Chouteau and Ohio avenues, he noticed a group of boys between the ages of 12 and 15 years carrying what appeared to be broomsticks. They walked alongside his car and broke out several windows, causing damage to the car and injury to two passengers.

Injured seriously were Miss Flora Crawford, 3304 Laclede, who was treated at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital for possible brain concussion and Miss Nora Wilborn, 1108 Delmar, who suffered multiple lacerations of the face.

The damage to the street car was unestimated. The vandals unidentified made their escape on foot.



Robert Willis, Jr.

Taxi Driver Held in Beating

Pedro Miraglia, 27, of 593 Oak Terrace, Bronx, taxi driver for the Willow Cab Co., was held in $500 bail by Magistrate Maurice Simmons yesterday on an assault charge, after beating Robert Willis, Jr., 61, PM mail clerk. Miraglia's hack license has been suspended.

At Church and Hispenard St., according to testimony, Miraglia refused to drive Willis to the PM office with a sack of mail. When Willis, it was testified, asked for a policeman to settle the dispute, the driver dragged him from the cab, saying "I'll be the cop," and knocked him unconscious. Patrolman Joseph E. Lally, of the 4th Precinct, arrested Miraglia.

Willis was treated at the Beekman St. Hospital for lacerations of the face and a possible nose fracture.

In holding Miraglia for trial in Special Sessions Court, Simmons warned Miraglia, who admitted hitting Willis, but said it was in self defense, that "brutality and inhumanity" would not be tolerated in the city.

CALLOWAY TRIAL ORDERED

Court Won't Let Charge Against Band Leader Be Dropped

Cab Calloway, night club band leader and entertainer, received a setback yesterday in Special Sessions when Justices William R. Bayes, William B. Northrop and Gustav W. M. Wiebolat ordered him tried before them today on the third-degree assault charge that had been lodged against him last September by Claude Hopkins, his alternate band leader at the Club Zanzibar.

The complainant had tried to withdraw the charge that Mr. Calloway, on the night of Aug. 14 at the start of the V-J celebration in the club, had punched him. "I don't think he meant to strike me," Mr. Hopkins said. The court refused to terminate the case, however.

Cab Calloway Loses N.Y. Court Bout

NEW YORK — The "V-J" in V-J Day turned out this week to mean "Very Jolting" financially as far as Hi-De-Ho Expert Cab Calloway is concerned.

Supplying the off-the-beaten-path definition was Supreme Court Justice Samuel Dickstein, who ordered the orchestra leader to pay the sum of $3,000 to Miss Gladys Beavers, who suffered a broken nose on that historic day in the Cafe Zanzibar when he donned the mantle of volunteer referee in a fracas between Calloway and Bandleader Claude Hopkins.

Calloway, who, it is claimed, has a neat little reputation for punching at the drop of a baton, was in fine form during the two-day trial, but his verbal jabs proved less effective than the ones he uses for night club bouts. Reason for this was Judge Dickstein's astute counter-punching.

Doesn't Deny The Blow

King Hi-De-Ho led with the contention that although he did lay one on Miss Beavers, she could not recover damages because she put her pair of pennies in of her own free will. The judge danced nimbly out of the way of this Calloway offering and overruled the Cab.

Changing his verbal stance, the bandleader maintained that the unfortunate Miss Beavers was out of luck as far as Calloway compensation was concerned because said Calloway had imbibed a couple of alcoholic conditioners before the set-to got under way. The magistrate looked like a champion getting under this haymaker by the baton-wielder after which he liquidated the claim.

Judge Dickstein's counter-attack read:

"Miss Beavers merely sought to separate two combatants who were disturbing the peace of the community. On the question of the assault itself the evidence clearly shows that the assault was unjustified and that Calloway does not deny its occurrence. The only excuse offered by the defendant was that he had a couple of drinks before he committed the assault."

WOMAN LOSES EYE AS THIEF USES ACID

Suppression of Report Denied in Attack on 70-Year-Old Member of British Family

Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander denied late yesterday there had been any intent to suppress the story of an attack on a 70-year-old woman member of a distinguished British family.

The victim was almost totally blinded a month ago when attacked with acid in her fashionable East Side home by an intruder demanding money.

"There is no reason why any case of this kind should be suppressed," the Commissioner said. "It's an unusual case and it should be handled as all other unusual cases as long as it does not interfere with the ends of justice."

The victim of the attack, which became known during the day, was Mrs. Josephine Sharp Finn, daughter of the late Sir James Renwick Sharp, who lives with her daughter in their ten-room, five-story home at 10 East Eighty-second Street.

One Eye Is Blinded

Completely blinded in the left eye and suffering severe pain from injuries to the other eye, Mrs. Finn has been confined to her bed since the attack occurred at 2 A. M. on the morning of Oct. 28, the daughter, Mrs. Gladys Gleason, said. Mrs. Gleason said her mother's back and arm also were hurt badly when the assailant, described only as a tall Negro, dragged her across the main floor to a maid's room.

As the story was pieced together by the daughter, Mrs. Finn was descending from her second-floor bedroom to prepare a cup of tea when a man appeared on the stairs, pistol in hand. He demanded a large sum of money that he insisted she kept in the house.

When she protested that she had no money, the intruder twisted her arm behind her and dragged her through the hall and kitchen, into the laundry and on into the maid's rest room. As he dragged her, Mrs. Finn said he rubbed his hand into her eyes. They began to smart.

Awakened by the commotion, Mrs. Gleason started downstairs but was warned off by her mother's shout: "Don't come down." Snatching a police whistle, Mrs. Gleason threw up a window and gave repeated blasts to summon help. A neighbor called the police.

Burglar Is Not Found

They responded within a matter of minutes, Mrs. Gleason said, but found no trace of the burglar other than a jimmied front door and an open rear door through which he may have fled.

Assistant Chief Inspector George Mitchell, assigned to the case by Commissioner Wallander, said a full report was made at the time by Detective Walter Walsh, but that there had been no "aided card" because Mrs. Finn insisted upon being treated by her private physician.

Mr. Wallander said he had asked Inspector Mitchell for a report "forthwith." He said the report would be made public.

Mrs. Finn and her daughter, a widow, have lived at their present address for three years. They come from a long line of British peers, among them the Earl of Melford and Lord Drummond. William Graves Sharp, a cousin of Mrs. Gleanson, is a former United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

Judge Delays Trial After Negro Threatened

NEW YORK, Nov. 26—(AP)—The opening of the trial of three Brooklyn men on charges of assault was interrupted yesterday when Judge Samuel Leibowitz ordered 14 spectators searched after a state witness reported he had been threatened with death if he appeared in court.

Leibowitz then revoked the $25,000 bail of each of the defendants and ordered the jury locked up while District Atty. Miles F. McDonald ordered a 24-hour guard for the witness, Aaron Stewart, Negro storekeeper.

The defendants are William Davidson, 41, also known as Davidoff, brother of Prize Fighter Al (Bummy) Davis, who was killed a year ago in a tavern holdup; Russell Roccoforte, 23, and Sam Goldberg, 32. A separate trial later was ordered for Roccoforte.

Leibowitz picked out the men to be searched after Aaron Stewart, said two men entered his store, tossed $500 in bills on the counter, and said, "If you go to court; you're going to get killed." No weapons were found.

The assault charges stemmed from a shooting on Aug. 3 in which two persons were injured.

Educator In Serious Condition After Carolina Beating

Daily World

DURHAM, N. C. (ANP) — A Negro educator lies in serious condition in a hospital here after being beaten by two white youths recently when he was trying to purchase meat at Rougement for his school. Atlanta, Ga.

Sheriff E. G. Blevin revealed last week that John Thomas Blalock, 20, and George E. Tilley, 25, are in jail pending the outcome of C. B. Nixon, school coordinator, who suffered a fractured skull and severe bruises after the beating. Wed. 10-23-46

Both white men admit attacking the 46-year-old executive while he was trying to buy meat for his school, which is located 20 miles away.

BEAT NEGRO EDUCATOR Chi. Defender

Durham, N. C. (ANP) — Two white men are in jail here pending report on the condition of a Negro educator whom they beat when he attempted to buy meat at Rougement recently for his school, 25 miles from here. C. B. Nixon, school coordinator, suffered a fractured skull and other injuries when John Thomas Blalock, 20, and George E. Tilley, 25, attacked him. Both youths admit the crime and are being held by Sheriff E. G. Belvin. Chicago, Ill. Sat.

16i 1946

Ohio

Shipbuilder's Sons Beat Negro Waiter

People's Voice 1-5-46

New York, N.Y.

Sat. 11-30-46

CLEVELAND (FP) — The Cleveland Union Leader, in a banner head story December 29, said that two sons of Shipbuilder Andrew J. Higgins of New Orleans attacked a Negro waiter at the Hotel Cleveland December 13 because "he forgot to say 'sir' to southern gentlemen" while serving dinner in the Higgins boys' private suite.

Under the by-line of Irv Gitlin, the story said the Higgins boys have gone unpunished since the attack in which he was severely beaten and kicked in the suite of Frank and Rolland Higgins. The waiter is Orlie Day, 41, who won a monetary award in an "out of court" settlement arranged by his attorney.

"WHITE GENTLEMEN"

According to the Cleveland Union Leader story, Day arranged the table and then went about serving the soup. Maury Diggs, middle-aged guest of the boys, tasted his soup and remarked "Waiter, this is very good. Have you any cheese?"

Day smiled, the story says, and replied "Yes, in just a minute." One of the Higgins boys jumped to his feet yelling "What do you mean, 'Yes, in just a minute?'" After voicing his nasty opinion of Day's race, Higgins reminded, "We're white gentlemen from the south. Where we come from we're addressed 'yes, sir' and 'no, sir'."

WARRANT DENIED

After calling the waiter impudent, Higgins ordered him from the room. Day said he would get the check and Higgins again demanded he add the word 'sir.' A melee followe in which Day sought to defend himself from Higgins' blows, and the two other men joined the fray until it was broken up by hotel detectives.

Day was denied a warrant for the arrest of the New Orleans visitors, but later his attorney, Charles V. Carr accepted a cash settlement from Higgins' lawyers and agreed to holdup further proceedings until he saw the extent of the waiter's injuries.

Since then, the account said, the Higgins boys have returned to Louisiana, where no realist expects the governor to honor an Ohio request for extradition to face charges. The Cleveland Press buried the story in page 14 without full details.

Negro waiter at the Hotel Cleveland Dec. 12 because "he forgot to say 'sir' to Southern gentlemen" while serving dinner in the Higgins boys' private suite. 1-9-46

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Charge Higgins' Sons Attacked Negro Waiter

New York, N.Y.

By Federated Press

CLEVELAND (FP).—The Cleveland Union Leader, in a banner head story Dec. 29 said that two sons of shipbuilder Andrew J. Higgins of New Orleans attacked a

Vago was found guilty on charges of assault and battery against Albert Luster, 32, Negro employe of the Cleveland Transit system, who suffered a fractured skull and a deep gash in his lip. Luster said he was struck on the head with a night stick by Vago last August, with several other park guards later joining in the slug fest until he was beaten to the ground.

The 200-pound Vago charged, however, that he was attacked by 145-pound Luster and that he was unable to discern what was going on, although Luster emerged severely beaten. The Humphrey Company, owner of the amusement park, engaged Leroy Davenport, reputedly one of the best trial lawyers in the state, to defend Vago.

Stomped By Police

The assault occurred when Luster went out to the park to meet members of an interracial group in an attempt to test the policy of the park. Unable to find his friends, who had been put out of the park before his arrival, Luster made several telephone calls. Coming out of the telephone booth, Luster said he was accosted by Vago who charged him with looking suspicious and with "having his hands in his pockets."

Cop 'Guilty' Defender In Ohio Suit

Chicago, Ill.

CLEVELAND—(ANP)—The first lawsuit to grow out of an extensive campaign to break the 46-year-old anti-Negro policy of Euclid Beach Park was heard by an all-women jury, including two Negro women, last week and a verdict of "guilty" was returned against Julius Vago, 31, white employee of the park.

16i 1946

Oklahoma

WHITE SAILOR IN UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON NEGRO WOMAN STUDYING BEAUTY WORK HERE

The Black Dispatch

Knocks Down Soldier Who Admonishes Him To Cease Molestation

Oklahoma City, Okla.

DEMANDS CIGARETTE BE LIGHTED

Sat. 8-10-46

How do race riots start? Who is generally the aggressor, and what are the vital facts regarding the breaking down of law and order most newspapers fail to print?

Two colored women in Oklahoma City taking a course in Beauty culture at the Nilar Jewel college, 816 East 5th, and whose homes are in Alberquerque, New Mexico, have the answer to the above question. They can tell of unprovoked insults, slugging and the later arrest of a Negro soldier who in a gentlemanly way sought to offer protection to them from the brutal aggression of a white sailor.

These defensless black women have the answer to questions that recently arose at Columbia, Tennessee, and they realize that brutal "white supremecy" had them near to the danger that lurked for two black women "wiped out" by the mob last week near Monroe, Georgia.

Let's listen to the story of these two women, who after leaving their classes at the Nilar Jewel beauty college Monday, innocently ran into a uniformed white sailor who unprovokedly slugged a "nigger woman" and knocked down a Negro soldier who in a dignified, non-belligerent way sought to offer protection.

"We had just gotten off the East 4th Street bus," said Mrs. Zelma Thomas, 33, 408 North Arno, Alberquerque, and who is stopping this summer with her sister, Mrs. Catherine Adams, 1209 South Harvey. Mrs. Thomas was accompanied by a friend, Mrs. Jannie Mae Carter, 710 East Garfield, Alberquerque, who is also a student at the Nilar Jewel school.

"We were waiting for the Shields bus at the corner of Grand and Broadway, and I saw the bus coming and stooped down to pick up my leather bag containing my shop tools. While in this stooping position I felt a severe and painful blow from the rear, and turning to Mrs. Carter I said "what was that?" "I saw the sailor when he struck Mrs. Thomas and I immediately told her, pointing to the intruder "He struck you," said Mrs. Carter.

"I whirled facing the sailor and said "what do you mean?" said Mrs. Thomas. He advanced with his fist doubled and in a menacing way said "Don't you like it?" "No" I said "I do not like it, and futhermore I have done nothing to you and cannot conceive why I have incurred your anger." Three other white sailors in uniform stood near but they said nothing nor took any part in the belligerency of their companion.

"He turned abruptly away from me and said to Mrs. Carter, "Give me a light." Mrs. Carter remained motionless and speechless, and angrily the sailor advanced on her shouting "What the hell's wrong with you? Ain't you going to say anything?"

It was at this moment that a Negro soldier approached and in a quiet tone of voice said, according to Mrs. Thomas "Fellow let her alone. She has no light for your cigaretts. What's wrong anyway?"

Black-Dispatch

"Why that nigger woman tried to get mad because I hit her" the white sailor announced to the Negro soldier. She must think she's as good as I am.

To this the soldier replied "Negroes feel they are as good as anyone." "Hell, you're not over there now" shouted the now enraged sailor. "I own this place over here. I pay taxes over here and I'll bet you - - - - - niggers don't pay any taxes around here at all."

A white man approached just at this moment and attempted to advise the white sailor and his three friends to leave, and not have any trouble, and as another East 4th Street bus approaching the Negro soldier turned preparing to board it. Like a tiger the white sailor leaped and snatched the Negro soldier from the rear and whirled him around and crashed his fist squarely in the jaw. The Negro soldier fell to the ground, but regained his balance instantly and was on his feet the next moment to return the exact compliment to the white sailor as he rushed him. Down went the white sailor in the dust, and it was then that his three comrades plunged at the Negro soldier, who realizing he was being ganged ran and climbed on the bus before it started.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

"A few moments later, as we passed in the Shields bus, we saw white policemen pulling four Negro soldiers off the East 4th Street bus" Mrs. Thomas reported. Just what action, if any, taken against soldiers alleged to have been apprehended by police, was being investigated Wednesday.

Sat. 8-10-46

Soldier sues white, for beating

Los Angeles Tribune 6-19-46

SUMMERTON, S.C.—Pvt. Simon McDonald, of Summerton, has asked NAACP to take up his case against J. W. Walker, white, who struck him in the mouth with a bottle, knocking him unconscious, and fired at the car in which he was being taken to the hospital after the attack. Walker, who claimed that he mistook his victim for McDonald's brother with whom he had quarreled, has been charged with aggravated assault with attempt to kill.

White Man Jailed For Beating S.C. Soldier

SUMMERTON, S. C.—(ANP)—J. W. Walker, white, was released under $200 bond this week on a charge of aggravated assault and intent to kill under a warrant signed by Pvt. Simon McDonald, assigned to McClellan Field, Cal.

Pvt. McDonald said Walker mistook him for a brother who is now overseas and without warning knocked him unconscious with a bottle at Davis store in St. Paul, S. C., near here. The brother and Walker, McDonald said, had had a difference seven years ago. Sat 2-2-46

Revived by a sister, McDonald and four other persons left in the family car. A short distance away, they were fired at twice by Walker, both shots missing.

Back in Summerton, McDonald, who is on special leave to attend his seriously ill mother, swore out the warrant. He has appealed to the NAACP for assistance in the case.

Race Relations

The News and Courier

To The News and Courier:

It is with growing alarm we read in the daily papers the increasing number of white women being arrested for drunkenness, stealing and disorderly conduct. Charleston, S.

Now a white woman and a colored woman arrested for fighting in a department store. The whole blame seems to have been placed on the negro. She had to pay a fine or serve time.

One wonders whether the leniency of dealing with misdemeanors for white women is causing them to lose pride and integrity. Again one wonders if these women are people who have always lived in Charleston or new residents. Wed. 7-17-46

Charleston has long been noted for the wholesome relationship between the races. Let us hope that all right thinking people will strive to keep this feeling alive.

ETHELYN M. PARKER,
(Publicity Chairman, Federation of Women's Clubs, Committee on Better Race Relations.)
163-A Line street.

MAN BEATEN, DUMPED UNCONSCIOUS IN DITCH

Miami Herald Florida Sat 3-2-46

YORK, S. C.—(ANP)—An investigation into circumstances surrounding the November beating and dumping into a ditch near the North aCrolina line, presumably to die, of Samuel Johnson by two York city officers and a state highway patrolman was underway early this week.

Johnson, who has an excellent record covering more than 20 years of employment with a prominent white physician, has had to flee his family and home, owned by him, and is reported living in North Carolna and in safety for his life.

Meanwhile, rank indignation over apparent injustice in the case has aroused white citizens who hold the lead in seeking justice for the victim. Leaders among them haev referred the matter to the state onference of NAACP and from its office in Columbia, President James M. Hinton has asked Gov. Ransome J. Williams for a complete investigation.

Johnson was arrested and jailed on charges of "going with a white woman" last November. Mayor Hildebrand, Sheriff Charles Moss and Solicitor W. G. Finley are reported by the NAACP as having investigated the case and found it groundless. Johnson was tured over to two city officers, one identified as R. W. Harshaw and a highway jpatrolman, identified as Blitch. He was advised by Finley not to attempt to return home and than the officers would escort him to safe place until suspicion of him had died down. Sat 3-2-46

The officers left City Hall for North Carolina, the victim was told. En route, they took turns beating him with blackjacks and pistol butts. Near the North Carolina line, they dumped his now unconscious body in a ditch and left him. There passing motorists found him, rushed him to a hospital where he was confined several days before being discharged.

NAACP record say the woman involved had no charges preferred against her, required under state law covering such cases. Johnson's unoconscious body was discovered Nov. 20.

Elko, S.C. White Mobsters Mercilessly Beat Farmer

The Afro American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 9-21-46

ELKO, S.C.—White mobsters many of whom were in the group which lynched James Walker Jr here Aug. 12, mercilessly beat an other victim Saturday night, Sept 7, it was disclosed last week.

The victim, Fred Pryor, a colored farmer, was beaten bloody and senseless in the establishment of John Craig, member of the Walker lynching mob, and brother to William Craig, who admitted the fatal shooting of Walker.

Car Crank Used

Pryor, confined to bed and painfully njured, was beaten with an automobile crank case handle by a white man known only as "Mr. Morris," while in the place.

Others, reported to have shared in the beating, were listed as Booty Hair and William Craig, both members of the August mob. Another members of the Walker slayers, Buster Givhans, was also reported present.

Witnesses said that Pryor had entered the business place to make a purchase before going home. One of the men is said to have spoke insultingly him, whereupon it is said, "he looked like he didn't like it."

Kept Quiet

When Pryor refused to state whether or not he "liked" the remarks, Morris is said to have struck him. The victim, throwing up his hands to ward off blows, was thought to be fighting a white man.

Several others in the place then joined in the beating until Pryor fell unconscious. One white man outside, attracted by the cries and pleas of the victim, picked him up and rushed him to a hospital in a nearby city where he was treated.

Boycotting Campaign

Meanwhile, a general campaign has bee launched by citizens to stopped colored from trading at John Craig's.

The Pryor incident is the third to have occurred at the hands of the Craig brothers within a year. While William Craig slew Walker, his brother John, a few months ago, beat and stomped nearly to death James (Shine) Brown.

A grand jury investigation into the Walker lynching is scheduled to open within the week.

16i 1946

Tennessee

Two Policemen Attacked By Servicemen On Beale; Negro Memphians Stirred

The Memphis World
Memphis Tenn. 1-11-46

With a half dozen suspects arrested in connection with the attack and assault on two veteran policemen at 7 p. m. Sunday in front of the New Daisy Theater, 331 Beale Avenue, the Negro segment of Memphis was agog with speculations as late as Tuesday evening over the occurrence.

With many well known Negro leaders voicing regrets that the incident occurred, the police search for the assailants goes on, accompanied by a virtual police blanket thrown over Beale Street and vicinity.

Patrolmen J. H. Cunningham and D. T. Gaskins were treated at John Gaston Hospital for head lacerations received in their encounter with allegedly four Negro service men....three sailors and a soldier.

According to the testimony of several witnesses, the incident resulted when the Negro service men were strolling down Beale Street arm in arm. The two policemen approached them as they neared the front of the Daisy Theater.

1-11-46

Witnesses said one of the officers accosted the men, saying, "Why don't you black so-and-so's get over and let somebody else walk on the street!" One of the officers is said to have swung his club in the direction of, not four, but three service men. One of the men grabbed the club; snatched it from the officer and struck him, knocking him out. The other officer attempted to raise his gun, but it was snatched from his hand by the unidentified service man, who used it as a club and knocked the second officer out. He is alleged to have pointed the gun at the officer's head, threatening to kill him. He was dissuaded from this act by one of his companions, who led the group away from the scene.

1-11-46

Shortly afterwards, Beale Street was swarming with police squad cars, the occupants of which, with drawn guns, searched Beale Street cafes and entertainment centers for the assailants. It was believed that the men were servicemen who had been discharged and were on their way to the Millington Separation Center. Several suspects were arrested but could not be identified by witnesses of the assault.

General sentiment among Negro Memphis leaders is that the incident is regrettable, in view of the fact that the assaulted officers are well-known and liked by local Negroes who know them, and because of the strenuous efforts to promote interracial goodwill in Memphis.

1-11-46

Some spokesmen said the incident further established the need for Negro policemen in the Negro areas of Memphis, at least.

Deny Beating Of Wings Over Jordan Member-Tenn

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 9-25

MEMPHIS, TENN.—(SNS)—Reports which spread over the city last week that a woman member of the famed Wings Over Jordan Choir was beaten in the Vance Avenue branch of the local YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) at the hands of a policeman, was aired over the week-end by disclosure of the reported facts surrounding the incident.

Investigations conducted by Y. W. C A. officials brought out a declaration, based on the statements of women residents at the 'Y,' that one of the women members of the noted singing group was arrested at the institution but that no one saw the officers beat her.

A spokesman for the YWCA also emphasized the fact that no official of the organization called the Police. Officers were summoned by one of the women residents who had misplaced her watch and suspected that it had been stolen. She reported the matter to the acting night matron of the 'Y,' and mentioned her idea of calling the Police. She was asked not to call the Police, but to wait until the day matron arrived and an investigation could be made by 'Y' authorities. The incident occured early Thursday morning, about the time the night matron was to leave, and thus not have time to conduct the inquiry for the missing watch.

However, instead of waiting for the day matron's arrival the watch owner, encouraged by two other women, called the Police anyway. The watch was later found on a window ledge in a shower-room.

When the officers arrived, the 'Y' residents involved reported, one began questioning several women they saw about the missing watch. Two members of the Wings Over Jordan Choir were coming down the stairs enroute to get their breakfast. The Choir had stopped in Memphis overnight after an engagement in West Memphis. The officer stopped them and asked if they knew anything about the watch. The women reported that the officer's manner was courteous up to this point. When he started to question the two "Wings Over Jordan" Choir members, one of them denied having any knowledge of the watch. She was permitted to proceed. The other, the woman report, apparently took offense at the officer's questioning her about it.

They said the manner in which she replied to the officer's questions was obviously belligerent and hostile. They said the policeman lost patience and began cursing the woman. She was said not to have cursed back, but to have maintained her hostile attitude. They said, each time she was questioned by the policeman, the "Wings Over Jordan" member would start an argument with him, insisting that she was from Cleveland, Ohio and not accustomed to his manner and attitude.

The only time any show of violence was made by the officer, the 'Y' woman reported, was when he shoved the choir member back into her seat, when she attempted to leave the room and end his questioning. He placed her under arrest, and according to the statement made by the 'Y' residents for the investigation took her to the squad car and drove away. They say he got into the back seat with her. That is the last they saw of the girl. Later, thru the intercession of influential citizens the girl was released at the Police Station. But, YWCA personnel and residents reported that they did no see the girl after she was released, and do not know whether she was maltreated or not.

Wed. 9-25-46

Other members of the noted aggregation got in the bus in which they are m aking a current Southern tour, and when the arrested woman returned, left the city for an engagement in Harrisson, Ark., without disclosing to 'Y' attendants what had happened. Rev. Glen T. Settle, head of the internationally-famous choir was not in Memphis with his troupe.

Indignation swept over Negro Memphis when rumors of the alleged beating were circulated, but in the absence of any witnesses to such an act, and the failure of the "Wings Over Jordan" personnel director, E. F. Barnes, to make a statement about the incident of the choir member's arrest, p ossible protests to officials connected with the Police Department were held up.

The woman who was allegedly beaten is Miss Hazel Morris of Cleveland, Ohio

Woman Held On Assault Charge Here

The Informer
Houston Texas

HOUSTON — Mrs. Bernice Jackson, 3012 Ennis, is being held by police pending the outcome of the condition of Miss Katherine Perkins, young white woman, whom Mrs. Jackson is reported to have struck on the head with a can of cranberry sauce at Henke and Pillot's on LaBranch and Holman sts., Christmas eve.

Sat 1-5-45

The young white woman was treated at the St. Joseph hospital, where she is reported to have been carried unconscious and a later check showed she had been discharged the same day.

Cause for the young woman being struck has not been ascertained and officers are still investigating. Miss Gibson, who works in the drug department of the store where the incident is reported to have happened, stated she did not know what caused the woman to strike the other one. She says she was using the telephone and did not see how it happened, but saw the woman lying on the floor. 1-5-45

White Youths Fined For Attacks On Negroes

The Defender
Chicago, Ill.

BEAUMONT, Tex. — (ANP) — Charged with assault against two Negroes, two 17-year-old white youths, both with police records, were fined $125 each and three others turned over to juvenile authorities here last week by Judge Hoyt A. Pond in corporation court.

The victims, attacked by older boys while younger ones cheered, fled before serious injury was suffered. Arrests were made by G. B. Douglas chief of detectives, and Detectives M. P. Jay and Dewey Smith. Sat. 10-19-46

Youth Fined For Attack On Others

The World
Memphis, Tenn.

BEAUMONT, Tex.—(ANP)—Two 17-year-old white youths were fined $125 each and three others turned over to juvenile authorities by Judge Hoyt A. Pond in corporation court here last Saturday on charges on simple assault against two Negroes. The youths were arrested by Chief of Detectives G. B. Douglas and Detectives M. P. Jay and Dewey Smith upon the complaint of the two men that they were attacked without provocation last Tuesday. Tues. 10-1-46

The Negroes alleged that they were attacked by the older boys, while the younger ones made up a "cheering gallery." The victims ran before serious injury was incurred. The two youths fined, both having previous police records, are being held in jail pending payment of fines.

Va. Firm Sued by Youth Official

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Appealed in Vain to Local FBI

Sat. 9-14-46

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — After appealing in vain to the Newport News district attorney and the local FBI for action against his assailants, Edgar Holt, vice president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, has filed a damage suit against the Crow Construction Company.

Holt charges that on July 25, while working on a job for the Crow Construction Company at a former Army establishment, Camp Patrick Henry, Va., he was brutally and bloodily assaulted without provocation by the foreman and members of a white working crew.

The Crow Construction Company is a notorious anti-union company which encourages attitudes of racial hatred on the part of the white workers in order to defeat any efforts toward effective employee unity and organization.

Story of Attack

According to Holt, on July 25 he asked for a drink of water and was about to take it from the water boy when a foreman snatched the pail away and carried it to some white men.

When Holt questioned this action he was reportedly assaulted by the foreman, who was joined by several other men. After beating him until his clothes were soaked in blood they dumped him on the roadside.

He later learned that other workers had been threatened if they tried to help him. After coming back to Newport News, he sought medical attention and secured a lawyer who made contact with the FBI, but nothing so far has been done about the matter, he said.